

## THE TRAGEDY OF BEING LOST

Luke 15

### The Tragedy of Carelessness – The Lost Sheep, Vs. 3-7.

#### ■ Thoughtlessness.

- The figure of the shepherd, sheep and sheepfold found many times in the scriptures. *Isa. 53:6ff; Jno. 10:1ff.; Acts 20:28*, etc.
- *Heb. 2:1. Cf. Mt. 9: 36*, a picture of a multitude that had no real purpose in life.

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#### ■ Absorption in other matters.

- Many are they who are carelessly absorbed in the treasures and pleasures of this life (cf. *Lk. 8:14; 12:16-21; 14:15ff*), or the complacency of denominational error (*Col 2:8*).

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#### ■ Lack of knowledge, spiritual interest and diligence.

- "Give diligence" *2 Tim. 2:15; Heb. 4:11; 2 Pet. 3:14*
- "Take heed." cf. *Amos 4:6ff; 1 Cor. 10:12; Col. 2:8; Heb. 3:12; 2 Pet. 1:19*
- Failure to do this means we are lost. Cf. *Hosea 4:6; Isa. 5:6; Acts 17:30*.

### The Tragedy of Uselessness – The Lost Coin. Vs. 8-10.

- This coin was of no value because it was "out of circulation."
- The useless church member is a lost church member.
  - Many have changed from useful vessels to into useless vessels, from vessels of honor to vessels dishonor (*2 Tim. 2:20*).
  - Uselessness means: loss of zeal for the Lord, loss of concern for others, and loss of influence, (*savor, Mt. 5:13; radiance, Mt. 5:14ff*)
  - The useless member is ... the one who has quit (*Lk. 9:62*), fallen (*Gal. 5:4*), does not serve the purpose that God has for him (*Mt. 25:24ff*).

### The Tragedy of Willfulness – The Prodigal Son. Vs. 11-24.

#### ■ The Prodigal Son was lost willfully.

- He willfully asked for his portion of the substance.
- He willfully went into the far country. With his eyes wide open he went into sin.
- He willfully wasted his substance with riotous living. He had no one to blame but himself.

## The Tragedy of Willfulness – The Prodigal Son. Vs. 11-24.

- The Prodigal Son was lost willfully.
  - Rebellion and defiance of authority. **Ex. 32; 2 Sam. 15-18**
  - Morally: **Ex. 32:7ff**
  - Doctrinally: **Gen. 3; 1 Tim. 2:14; cf. 2 Pet. 2:1ff**
  - Exaltation of my will and a desecration of God's will. **Rom. 1:18ff; 1 Cor. 1**
  - Prejudice. *"For this people's heart is waxed gross, And their ears are dull of hearing, And their eyes they have closed"* (**Mt. 13:15**).
  - Greater Damnation. **cf. Lk. 12:47, 48; Heb. 10:26ff**

## The Tragedy of Bitterness – The Elder Brother. Vs. 25-32.

- Self Commendation – He had stayed in his father's house.
  - He had served his father. *"Lo, these many years do I serve thee."*
  - He was never guilty of the immoralities of his brother.

## The Tragedy of Bitterness – The Elder Brother. Vs. 25-32.

- Bitterness toward brethren will cause us to be lost in hell as surely as the immoralities of the flesh. They are in the same class. **Gal. 5:19ff.**
- Love for brethren is abundantly and plainly taught. **Jno. 13:34f; 1 Cor. 13; 1 John 2: 9-11, 3:14f., 4:20f.**
- The elder brother represents the Pharisees and scribes who stood condemned because they *"trusted in themselves that they were righteous; and set all others at nought"* (**Lk. 18:9**).

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