

Who's Your One?

The Heart of Jesus for the Lost

Luke 15:1-7

INTRODUCTION FROM PASTOR VANCE: I'm a numbers guy. I enjoy digging into stats and comparing percentages. I know that many people don't enjoy numbers. For some they all just sound the same...for example: million and billion. *Have you ever thought about the difference between a million and a billion?* It's only one letter that separates them and if you are talking money, I'll take either amount as gift! Let's say you were going to count to a *million* adding one number every second...it would take you 11.5 days to count to a *million*. That's not a great way to spend a couple of weeks, but it's doable. Right? Let's do the same thing with a *billion*...adding one number every second would take you almost 32 years! Why all this talk about numbers? I want to share a staggering number with you. The longer I have stared at this number over the last few days, the more overwhelming it has become. To be more accurate, over the last few days, I've been staring at different version of this number, because it is constantly changing.

Here is the number: **7,740,780,919**

That's the total population of our world as of today—the total number of people living and breathing on this planet. There are more than 7.7 billion people alive today. And as I said, the number will be different by the time we finish this service, because the global population increases by roughly forty people every ten seconds. As followers of Jesus, we need to understand that every number in that total of more than 7.7 billion represents a soul. A person. A human being. These are individuals who've been made in the image of God to enjoy a relationship with the One who made them. Boys and girls. Men and women. Teenagers. Grandparents. Moms and dads. Aunts and uncles. All these people are precious in the sight of God. There are more than 7 billion people in the world (*Making up over 11,000 ppl groups and gathered into 195 countries with diversity of color and culture*). **But when you boil it all down, every person on earth is in one of two categories: LOST or FOUND.**

GROUP OR GOD TIME QUESTION: *When is the last time you were lost?* We were on the beach this summer and a child was *lost*. Being lost leads to fear, panic, sadness... *"All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way..."—Isaiah 53:6a* *"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."* —Luke 19:10

As the church of Jesus Christ, we have been sent into the world to reach the lost. To do so we must understand His heart. No place in Scripture better shows us this than Luke 15. **Read Luke 15:1-7**

Three Realities about the Heart of Jesus for the Lost:

I. JESUS LOVES THE LOST

This reality is the heartbeat of the entire Bible...the whole story of the Bible is God relentlessly pursuing those who are lost because He loves them!

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."—John 3:16

In Luke's gospel we see this reality demonstrated in two ways:

- 1) The way Jesus acted
 - a. The religious crowd (church people) saw a relationship with the lost as something to be avoided. Religious people say things like, *"what are those people doing here? Is it safe for us to associate with their kind? If we let those people in here what will people think of us?"*
 - b. Jesus saw a relationship with the lost as something to be pursued. Jesus says, *"Those people? Those are my kind of people! I love those people!"*

GROUP OR GOD TIME QUESTION: *How is it possible for Christian people to have an attitude of avoiding relationships with lost people?*

- 2) The words Jesus spoke
 - Jesus tells three stories in response to their accusation: a sheep, a coin, a son. All three stories in Luke 15 communicate...
 - ...the immense value of that which is lost (*a willingness to risk it all for the sake of the one that is lost*)
 - ...the endless pursuit of that which is lost (*a willingness to go to any lengths to reach the one that was lost*)

...the overwhelming joy when that which is lost is found (*a celebration when that which is lost is found*)

GROUP OR GOD TIME QUESTION: Jesus loves the lost...*do you?* Look at your actions/words

II. JESUS REACHES THE LOST THROUGH THE FOUND *"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."*—Luke 19:10

POINT: Jesus is on a mission to seek & save the lost *through us!* We must connect with lost people to accomplish the mission of Jesus

GROUP OR GOD TIME QUESTION: How are you doing with this mission?

We must communicate with lost people the good news of Jesus. *"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."*—Romans 10:17. We must be intentional about bringing the good news of Jesus into our everyday conversations where we live work and play

GROUP OR GOD TIME QUESTION: What can you do to improve in this area?

"The average person has twenty-seven conversations per day...we talk about sports, weather, clothes, shoes, movies, and TV shows. We're even willing to debate the nuances of politics, the intricacies of health issues, or the complexities of national economic matters. However, when it comes to bringing up the simple gospel, we shy away. We break out in hives, our palms sweat, our tongues are tied, and we find ourselves talking about everything but the gospel. The idea of injecting Jesus into our conversations causes great anxiety and fear for ordinary believers and pastors alike."—Jimmy Scroggins & Steve Wright
Turning Everyday Conversations into Gospel Conversations

GROUP OR GOD TIME QUESTION: Who is your ONE? Share a little about them.

PRAYER TIME: PRAY FOR THOSE THAT YOU JUST TALKED ABOUT.