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WHO'S YOUR ONE?

Touching Lives with Dr. James Merritt

Series Summary

In probably the most famous parable Jesus ever told he shows us why if we have the heart of God, we will have a heart for one - for that one person who doesn't know God, for that one person who needs to hear the gospel, for that one person who is lost and needs to be found. In this series, we are going to talk about how to have a heart for the one who is far from God, who doesn't know Jesus, and whose life would be changed by a relationship with their heavenly Father. We are going to learn how to take practical steps in evangelism to share Christ with others so that lives might be changed by the love of Christ and His free gift of salvation. correct answers.

Looking Out For Number One

Who's Your One? | Week 1 | Luke 15:1-10

NOTES INTRODUCTION In probably the most famous parable Jesus ever told he shows us why if we have the heart of God, we will have a heart for one - for that one person who doesn't know God, for that one person who needs to hear the gospel, for that one person who is lost and needs to be found. The problem was that the religious crowd only cared about the people who were in the temple while on the other hand, Jesus cared about the one that was outside the temple. The religious crowd built walls; Jesus built bridges. The religious crowd locked the doors to the church. Jesus took the doors out because Jesus was looking out for number one, except number one was not Himself. Number one was others. I want to challenge you today to begin looking out for number one like Jesus did, and we'll learn from today's key passage why we should, and how we can, and what happens when we do. **KEY POINTS** 1. We Should Properly Visualize Our One The reason why the Pharisees didn't understand why Jesus hung around sinners and welcomed sinners is not only because they didn't see themselves as sinners, but they didn't see sinners the way God sees sinners. God sees everyone who doesn't know him as someone who is lost. You need to begin to see a person far from God the same way you see a child of yours who is lost, and you will see your one in a totally different light. 2. We Should Personally Evangelize Our One If you really love Jesus you are going to love what Jesus loved. Jesus loved the one. When you properly visualize that one who is lost you will want to personally evangelize the one that is lost. As God found you, you want to help others be found as well. We don't really find God, God finds us. The truth of the matter is we don't find God. God finds us! God finds us because He is not only always looking for us, He wants His people who have been found to be looking out for number one. Who is your one? Who is the one you are looking for?

Looking Out For Number One

Who's Your One? | Week 1 | Luke 15:1-10

3. We Should Purposely Prioritize Our One

Lost people matter to God. What matters to God should matter to us. Heaven throws a party when lost people are found. Stop and think about that. God doesn't throw a party or rejoice when our team wins, we get the promotion, we get the big raise, we get on the front page of the paper. God throws a party every time one person repents, gets right with God, surrenders their life to Jesus, and that lost person is found. That is when God says, "It is party time!"

Nothing makes God sadder than people who are lost and nothing makes God gladder than when lost people are found. God doesn't throw a party when we tithe, when we reach our budget, when we pay off our debt, when the preacher quits at twelve o'clock. He throws a party when lost people are found. God doesn't get happy because we are in the right crowd; God gets happy when the right crowd goes looking for the wrong crowd, to help them get into the right crowd. We ought to put at the very top of our list doing what makes God happiest.

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Looking Out For Number One

Who's Your One? | Week 1 | Luke 15:1-10

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.	Who is your one?
2.	Have you made an effort to personally evangelize your one?
3.	Would you say that you see lost people the way God sees them? Why or why not?

The One That Matters

Who's Your One? | Week 2 | Luke 15:11-32

NOTES INTRODUCTION In today's key passage of Scripture, Jesus is talking to two groups of people – sinners and Pharisees (people who were banned from going to church and people who never missed it.) One group was so bad they didn't think God would ever accept them. The other group was so good that they thought God had already accepted them, but they were wrong, so He told this parable. Another misnomer is that the story is about either son. It really isn't. The main character of the story is the father. The father is mentioned twelve times in twenty verses. He is the real hero of the story. The story is not so much about a sinning son or a bitter brother, but a forgiving father. Of course, the father represents God. The whole point of the parable is very simple. The Father's door is always open and the Father's message is always "Welcome." The parable actually falls neatly into three different parts that tell us about the heart of our wonderful God. Let's look at each of those parts now. **KEY POINTS** 1. The Father Loves Us When We Rebel Against Him The prodigal son had lost everything except the most important thing – the love of his father. There is one thing that is true of you and me. No matter who we are, where we are, or if we are in a bad place why we got to where we are, there is a Father in heaven who loves you. There is no limit to how far He will let you go and no limit to how long He will wait for you to return. Someone said it beautifully, "A sinner may go to hell unsaved, but he will never go to hell unloved." The Father loves us even when we turn our back on Him and do everything we can to break His heart. No amount of rebellion can snuff the fire of His love for us. 2. The Father Looks For Us Until We Return To Him The son had turned his back on his father, but the father had never turned his back on his son. This son who had strutted out the front door smelling like a rose now was slinking up the road stinking like a pig. Long before he saw his father, his father saw him. But what's important for us to note is that this scene would have just crushed the ones listening to this story.

The One That Matters

Who's Your One? | Week 2 | Luke 15:11-32

You see, in ancient Hebrew culture, it was considered completely undignified for an older man to run. To run, you had to take off all of your outer garments and strip down basically to your undergarments. But that dad didn't care what anybody thought. He wanted the whole world to know that his love for his son was unconditional. There are two arms that will always be open to him and that is the arms of his dad. This is what makes this story even more amazing because it shows us what happens when a sinning son meets a forgiving father: love flows like a river and joy explodes like a firecracker.	NOTES
This parable is such a beautiful picture of how God the Father treats everybody who decides to come home no matter how far they have gotten into the country. I don't know where you are in your life right now, and you may think you've got so far away you can never come home. Let me just tell you the Father looks at you with eyes that forgive you. He speaks to you with the heart of forgiveness, runs to you with the feet of forgiveness, embraces you with the arms of forgiveness, and kisses you with the lips of forgiveness.	
3. The Father Longs For Us When We Reject Him We've spent most of our time in this message talking about the prodigal son. But there is also much to be learned from the older brother. The prodigal son was ashamed of his sinfulness. But the other son was proud of his goodness. And as a result, both sons were far from God, only the second son didn't realize it. The hardest person to win to Jesus Christ is not the person who believes he doesn't deserve the grace of God. It is the person who doesn't think he needs the grace of God. Both are equally far from God. One person rebels against the goodness of God. The other person rejects the grace of God.	
But the good news is that God longs for people in both categories. Whether you think you don't deserve the grace of God or whether you don't think you need it, God still longs to extend His grace to you. He still desires to have a relationship with you. And He will still wait for you to come back to Him, no matter how far you distance yourself from Him.	

The One That Matters

Who's Your One? | Week 2 | Luke 15:11-32

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. Do you identify more closely with the prodigal son or the older brother? Explain your answer.
- 2. How does it make you feel to know that God never turns His back on you no matter how far you wander from Him?

3. Do you know someone who has distanced themselves from God who you ca share the love of Christ with this week?	n

One On One

Who's Your One? | Week 3 | Acts 8:26-35

INTRODUCTION	NOTES
As we wrap up this series, I'm going to share with you a one-on-one encounter that happened two thousand years ago that gives us the perfect example of how to engage people one-on-one with the gospel. God did not allow you to hear about what Jesus did for you, believe what Jesus did for you, and move you to accept what Jesus did for you just so you could just keep it to yourself. Salvation is not to be stored; it is to be shared. Not only is every Christian commanded to do evangelism, to share the Gospel, to tell other people about Christ, but God has also equipped every one of us to do it and given us the tools that we need. Let's look at three steps we can take to share the gospel with others.	
KEY POINTS	
1. Be Filled With The Spirit The moment you give your life to Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit comes to live in you. From that moment on, you march to the beat of a different drummer than the one in which the world marches. You listen to a different voice than the world listens to. You look for a different Lord than the world looks to. The reason why Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to every believer is because it is impossible to live the Christian life without the Holy Spirit. In fact, you are not fully living the Christian life if you are not full of the Holy Spirit, being led by the Holy Spirit, and following the Holy Spirit When you are filled with the Holy Spirit you will go where the Spirit is leading. You will watch where the Spirit is working. You will trust what the Spirit is doing. Then, you will obey what the Spirit is commanding.	
If you will ask God to fill you with His Spirit and if you will believe and receive the filling of His Spirit, you won't have to share Jesus. You will want to share Jesus. When you do share Jesus, you realize is it not you sharing Jesus, but the Spirit of God sharing Jesus through you.	

One On One

Who's Your One? | Week 3 | Acts 8:26-35

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2. Be Faithful To The Scripture Remember the key to going one-on-one is being filled with the Spirit, so we know we have the Spirit within us. But there is another tool we have at our disposal and that is the Scripture.	NOTES
Listen carefully, people are not saved by your witness. They are not saved by your testimony. People are not saved by my preaching or my sermons. People are saved only by the Word of God. What God wants us to do as we share Christ is to just be faithful to the Scripture. Let the Word of God do the work only it can do.	
You can go one-on-one, and I can go one-on-one if we are filled with the Spirit and faithful to the Scripture. The Spirit witnesses through us, and the scripture works for us.	
3. Be Focused On The Savior If you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you will want to talk about what the Holy Spirit wants to talk about, and all He wants to talk about is Jesus. And not only when you are filled with the Spirit will you talk about Jesus, but when you are focused on the Scripture you will talk about Jesus because all of the Bible is all about Jesus.	
When you go one-on-one with anybody you talk about one thing – salvation. You talk about one person – Jesus, not about church, religion, denominations, theology, or doctrine. You talk about the death, burial, resurrection, and love of Jesus. If you are going to go one-on-one and you are going to be effective, you need to focus on Jesus. You can talk about Jesus without the Gospel, but you cannot talk about the Gospel without Jesus.	

One On One

Who's Your One? | Week 3 | Acts 8:26-35

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. Have you been allowing the Holy Spirit to lead you in your conversations and interactions with other people, or have you felt Him prompting you but ignored what He was leading you to say or do? Explain your answer.
- 2. How have you seen your faithfulness to spending time in God's Word affect your ability to talk about your faith with others?

3.	Who is one person you can talk to about Jesus and the gospel this week?