

Understanding and Responding to “lostness”

Luke 15 & 19:1-10





Lostness
& our response ...

Luke 15

Parables of "Lost-ness"

What % are lost ?

- ▶ The Lost Sheep
- ▶ The Lost Coin
- ▶ The Lost Son(s)

1 %

10 %

100 %

Jesus believes that 100%
of the human race is lost.

Do you ?

Variations on ...

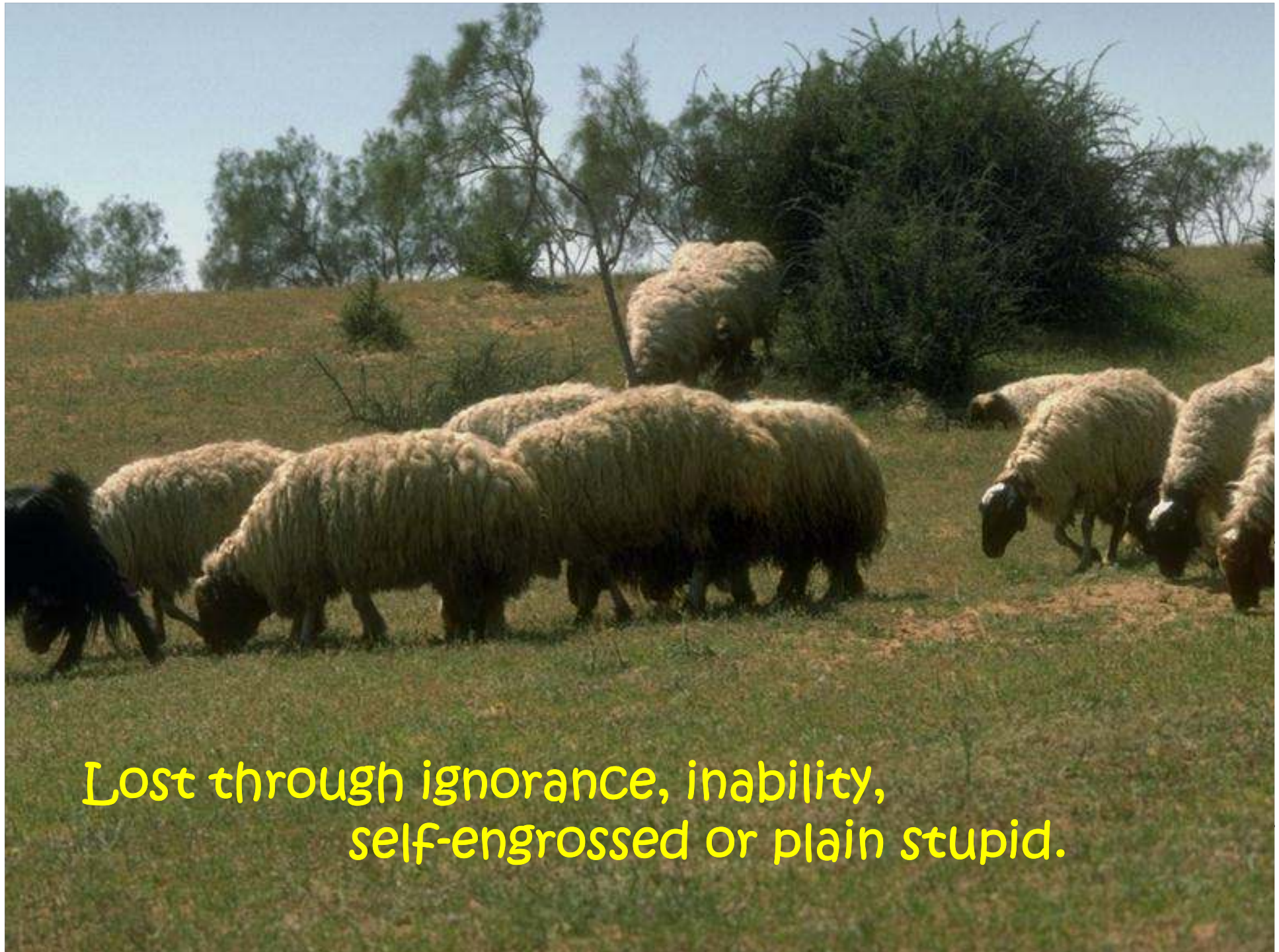
- ▶ the reasons to be lost
- ▶ the ways of being found
- ▶ the theme of seeking the lost



All are lost ...
but "lostness has
a range of reasons"

Luke 15

- ▶ The lost sheep
- ▶ The lost Coin
- ▶ The lost brothers



Lost through ignorance, inability,
self-engrossed or plain stupid.



Lost through
Carelessness.

Carelessness of
others that
devalues us.



Lost through
Personal
Choices.



The older brother



Lost through pride
and a sense of moral
superiority.

Devalued himself
in his own mind,
as a slave in his
father's house.

Variations on ...

► the reasons to be lost

**In what ways
are you lost today ?**



Variations on ...

- ▶ the reasons to be lost

- ▶ the ways of being found



As sheep or coin
we need someone
to look for us



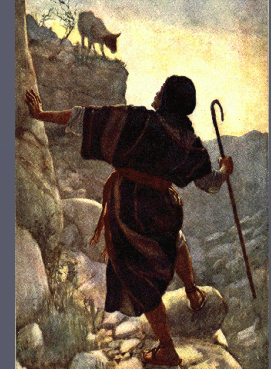
God

... has come to seek
and save the lost.

Jesus



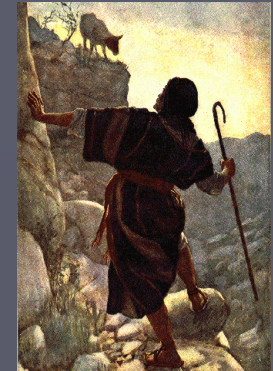
As sheep and coin we need someone
to look for us



As the prodigal son
we need to come to
our senses.



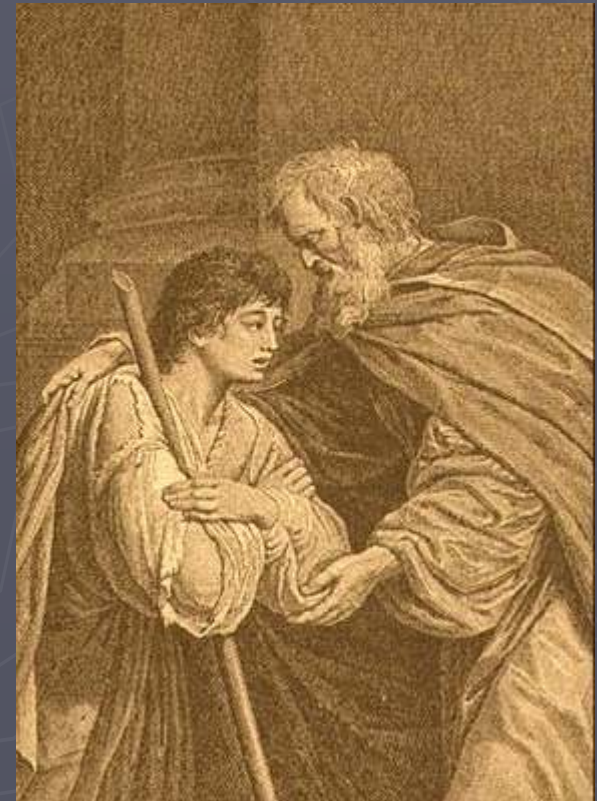
As sheep and coins we need someone
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As the prodigal son we need
to come to our senses



As the older brother
we need the humility
and grace to enter in.



Variations on ...

- ▶ the reasons to be lost
- ▶ the ways of being found
- ▶ the theme of seeking the lost



An obligation to seek ...

"As the Father has sent me,
even so I am sending you."

John 20:21



Following Jesus ...

“ ... to seek and to save the lost.”

Luke 19:1-10

**Seeking is not optional
for Jesus' followers**



Variations on Seeking ...

- ▶ Going outside, facing the many dangers
- ▶ Looking inside, with intricate care
- ▶ Getting on with daily life,
always open for seeking hearts
- ▶ Watching and waiting, never giving up
- ▶ Arguing and entreating, fearing the worst

Responding to curiosity

“He was trying to get a look at Jesus.”

Luke 19:3



Following Jesus ...

“ ... to seek and to save the lost.”

Luke 19:1-10







- *"Jesus's teaching consistently attracted the irreligious while offending the Bible-believing, religious people of his day. However, in the main, our churches today do not have this effect. The kind of outsiders Jesus attracted are not attracted to contemporary churches, even our most avant-garde ones. We tend to draw conservative, buttoned-down, moralistic people. The licentious and liberated or the broken and marginal avoid church. That can only mean one thing. If the preaching of our ministers and the practice of our parishioners do not have the same effect on people that Jesus had, then we must not be declaring the same message that Jesus did. **If our churches aren't appealing to younger brothers, they must be more full of elder brothers than we'd like to think.**"*

Timothy Keller, *The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith* (New York, NY: Dutton, 2008)

Improving our search for the lost ...

- ▶ What role does curiosity play in people coming to faith in Christ?
- ▶ What are some of the obstacles to effectively connecting people to Christ, that we still need to work at to remove them?
 - In my personal/family life
 - As a local church



Lostness
& the Father's heart

The Father's heart

- ▶ Compassion & grace of God
- ▶ the ready-ness of God to forgive
- ▶ his act of self humiliation

Always saw both boys
as his sons



As sheep and coins we
need someone to look
for us



As sheep and coins we need
someone to look for us

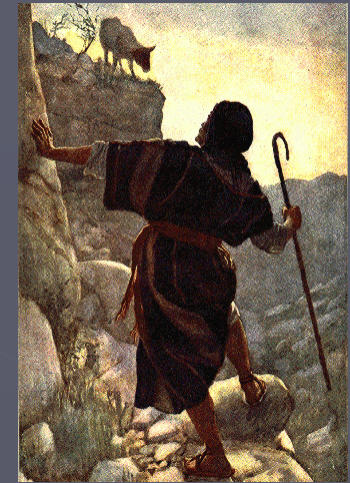


As the prodigal son we
need to come to our
senses.



As sheep and coins we need
someone to look for us

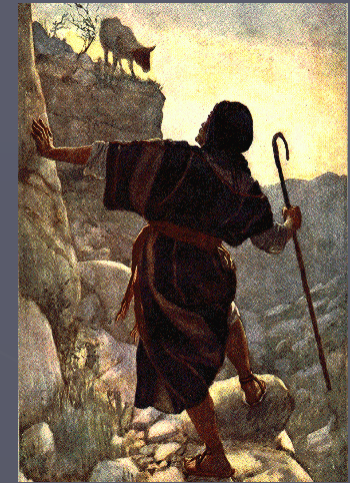
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As the older brother
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