

## The teacher teaches.

# DAY TWENTY-SEVEN 27

### LOST AND FOUND

Luke 14:25-15:24

*Being a disciple or a  
"Christ-Follower" involves  
commitment of heart and  
soul. To follow Christ is  
to give Him Lordship over  
all areas of our lives.*

*Gratefulness is a huge part  
of the Kingdom of God.*

*A Christ-follower does  
so by heart, and if the  
Kingdom is not a treasure  
there is little hope of  
being captured by it.*

Large groups of people were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation, and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

"Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and carefully determine whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? While the other is still far off, he sends a delegation and asks terms of peace. So too, no one can be My follower who does not give up all his own possessions. Salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Now all the tax-gatherers and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. And both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." And He told them this parable. "What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep!' In the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

"Or what woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search

*The prodigal son becomes grateful for his position as a son, even though he has squandered his inheritance. His father recognizes his change of heart and welcomes him back home with open arms!*



carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost!' In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

#### THE WANDERING SON

And He said, "A certain man had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' And he divided his wealth between them. And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with wild living.

"Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to have needs. And he went and attached himself to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he was longing to fill his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him. But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; take me on as one of your hired men.'

"And he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him, and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him, and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; and bring the choice calf, kill it, and let us eat and rejoice; for this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. And he summoned one of the servants and began inquiring what these things might be. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the choice calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.'

"But the oldest son became angry, and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began prevailing upon him. But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you, and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a choice calf, that I might celebrate with my friends; but when this son of yours returned, who has devoured your wealth with harlots, you

killed the choice calf for him.'

And he said to him, 'My child, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has again begun to live, and was lost and has been found.' "

#### DEBTS & DEBTORS

Now He was also saying to the disciples, "There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and this steward was reported to be squandering his possessions. And he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.' And the steward said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the stewardship away from me? I am not strong enough to dig; I am ashamed to beg. I know what I will do, so that when I am removed from the stewardship, people will receive me into their homes.'

"And he summoned each one of his master's debtors, and he began saying to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' And he said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' And he said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'

"And his master praised the unrighteous steward because he had acted shrewdly; for the sons of this age are more shrewd in relation to their own kind than the sons of light. And I say to you, make friends for yourselves by means of the possessions of unrighteousness; that when it fails you, they may receive you into the eternal dwellings. He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.

If therefore you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous possessions, who will entrust the true riches to you? And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and possessions."

Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things, and they were scoffing at Him. And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God. The Law

*Our debt to God is huge,  
and He is keenly aware of what  
we value and what we don't.  
God knows we cannot serve Him  
AND possessions. This is a major  
stumbling block for humans in  
every culture and every century!*

and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since then the gospel of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it. But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail.

“Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery.

“Now there was a certain rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, throttling life and living in splendor every day. And a certain poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.

*This is not an actual interaction. It is a parable. Jesus spoke in parables to veil meaning and at the same time clarify what He was attempting to teach. This parable is using an impossible situation to make clear what is possible!*

“And in Hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm is in place, in order that those who wish to come over from here to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.’

“And he said, ‘Then I beg you, Father, that you send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, that he may warn them, so that they also do not come to this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ But he said, ‘No, Father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’ But he said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.’ ”