

The Marks Of A Disciple Of Jesus Part Four

- A disciple of Jesus Christ loves to have fellowship with God. He loves to be alone with God and talk with God.
- A disciple of Jesus Christ loves to learn the will of God for His life. He loves to study the scriptures to discover the will of God for His life.
- A disciple of Jesus Christ loves his brothers and sisters in Christ. He will lay down his life to meet the needs of his brothers and sisters in Christ.
- A disciple of Jesus Christ loves lost people. There is nothing more valuable to him in this world than the soul of a lost person. There is nothing in this world that means more to him than winning lost people to Jesus Christ.

Luke 15:3-7

3 And he spake this parable unto them, saying,

4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

KJV

The lost is a translation of a Greek Word *apollumi* (ap-ol'-loo-mee) that means to destroy fully. The word is also translated as destroy, die, lose, and perish. It is used to identify those who are not saved. In the scriptures they are called the heathen. We call them unbelievers or non Christians.

With this parable Jesus revealed His heart for the heathen. They are his lost sheep. Jesus is their shepherd. He loves them like any shepherd loves his sheep. He grieves when one of them is missing and is in danger.

The parable of the prodical son reveals the same truth. Jesus is the father in the parable. The lost son is His son. He loves his son like any father loves his son. He grieves when one of His sons is missing and in danger and longs for his return.

What Jesus said about Jerusalem in Luke 13:34 reveal the same truth.

Luke 13:34

34 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!

KJV

Jesus is the mother hen. The brood is his chicks. He loves his brood like any hen loves her brood. He longs to gather them under His wings and protect them.

Jesus summed it up the way He feels about the lost in this way.

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world,
KJV

He went on to say.....

John 3:17

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.
KJV

We can see the same heart in the Apostle Paul toward the Jews. They were his enemies but he considered them to be his lost brethren.

Rom 9:1-3

9:1 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,
2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.
3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:
KJV

It is apparent that Paul would make any sacrifice to save them. He had the heart of Jesus for them.

Have you ever had a child that was lost?

David did. His name was Absalom. We can see the same heart in David toward his son Absalom that Jesus has for the lost. Absalom became David's enemy. But David considered Absalom to be his lost son. When Absalom was killed as a result of his rebellion look at how David mourned.

2 Sam 19:4

4 But the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice, O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!
KJV

I am sure that it was not the first time that David had mourned for his lost son.

This week there was an amber alert for Aja Danielle Johnson.

Police in Geronimo, Oklahoma have charged Lester Hobbs with the murder of his wife, Tonya Hobbs. She was found shot to death in her home Sunday. Police believe Hobbs then took off with 7 year old Aja Danielle Johnson.

The girl's biological father is pleading for her safe return.

"I need my little girl back," says J.J. Johnson. "She's missing. I love her dearly and she needs her medication. Please, Lester. If you're listening, or anyone out there knows where she is, please return her," the father pleaded.

This is the way Jesus feels about the lost. They are his sheep. They are his children. They are his brood. They are lost. Their lives are in danger. He longs for them to be found before they are destroyed.

Now let's compare the heart of Jesus for the lost with our heart for the lost. Is there a problem? We claim to be a disciple of Jesus. Do we have this mark?

The vast majority of those who claim to be a disciple of Jesus have never made an effort to witness to someone who is lost. For those who have it is certainly not a common practice. Most who claim to be a disciple of Jesus have never gone on a mission trip. Most do not support missions by what they give. So many who would call themselves a disciple of Jesus do not have any good friendships with those who are lost. Most do not have them in their home or seek to have a meal with them. If we had an evangelist come most would not have enough favor with someone who is lost that they would respond to an invitation to come one of the meetings. Our actions betray our claim to be a disciple of Jesus.

What is the problem?

Do we consider the unbeliever to be a member of our family that is lost? Do we see them as our brother or sister who is lost? Do we see them as even one of our dearest friends who are lost?

What would you do if your brother, sister, or one of your dearest friends was lost and in great danger? Would you search for them? Would you pray for their safe return? Would you seek help from others to find them? To what lengths would you go to find them? What sacrifices would you make to find them?

Peter had a problem even after Pentecost. His heart went out to his brethren the Jews. He had the heart of God for them. But he did not have it for the gentiles.

So one day while he was in prayer he receives a vision. He is commanded in the vision to eat that which is unclean. He resists.

The unclean animals represented the gentiles. Peter did not consider them to be his brethren that were lost as he did the Jews.

The Lord used the vision and a trip to the house of Cornelius to change Peter's heart. The Gentile belonged to the Lord just like the Jew. The Gentile was the Lord's sheep, the Lord's child, and the Lord's brood that was lost. They were his brothers and sisters who were lost. They were his dear friends who were lost. This experience changed

Peter. I doubt if Peter would have ever received the ministry of Paul without this experience.

This story of Peter is for all of us that need a change of heart; those of us who consider Christians to be our brothers but not the unbeliever.

We should consider them all to be members of our family; our brothers; our sisters; our dearest friend. They are just lost family members.

The fact that we have not seen them this way or taught our children to see them this way explains so much about us. It explains why so many of us are so judgmental. It explains why so many are so resentful toward the deeds of the lost. It explains why so many are so threatened by the lost. It explains why so many are so critical of the efforts being made by some to reach the lost. It explains why so many of us are so passive about reaching out to the lost. You have not considered them to be a member of your family that is lost; your brother; your sister; your dearest friend.

If your child was lost, would you consider any effort to find them to be too much effort if it would lead to your child's safe return? Would you support the use of some unusual means if it could lead to the safe return of your child?

Now it is not difficult to discern what your heart is like for the lost. Just ask your family. Just ask your neighbor who is lost. Just ask your co-worker or that member of your extended family. You cannot hide the condition of your heart from those who know you best.

Do you treat them like family? Do they feel a sense of belonging when they are around you? Do they see you making great sacrifices for their welfare?

Or do they feel like an alien that is to be feared by you and your family? Do they feel like a criminal that is to be avoided? Do they feel like a leper who could infect you?

They will never feel differently around you until you see them the way the Lord Jesus sees them. You will not have the right heart for them until you see them the way the Lord sees them.

They are His family and yours. They are just lost! Now go find them. Amen!