

Summary

Pastor Kevin teaches from Luke 15:8-10, focusing on the parable of the lost coin as part of the Christmas series 'Welcome Home.' He explains that Jesus left his home in glory and entered our broken world so we can be at home with God forever. The parable reveals three key truths about God's character: God sees when we are lost, God seeks us with intense care and persistence, and God celebrates when we return to Him. The pastor emphasizes that the value of what is lost determines the intensity of the search, showing how precious we are to God. He connects this to Christmas, explaining that God moved heaven and earth to pursue us through Christ. The message concludes with communion, reminding us that Jesus invested His life in us, not just stock or material things, and that we are worth everything to Him.

Intro Prayer

Father, we come before You today with open hearts, ready to receive what You want to teach us through Your Word. We ask that You would prepare our hearts and minds to understand the depth of Your love for us. Help us to see ourselves as You see us - precious and valuable. Open our eyes to the truth of Your pursuit of us and Your joy over our return to You. We pray that You would speak to each person here today, meeting them exactly where they are in their spiritual journey. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's the most valuable thing you've ever lost, and how did you go about trying to find it?

Key Verses

1. Luke 15:8-10
2. Genesis 16:13
3. Revelation 5:11

Questions

1. How does the image of God as joyful challenge or confirm your current understanding of God's character?
2. Pastor Kevin mentioned that 'the value of what is lost determines the intensity of the search.' How does this principle apply to God's pursuit of us?
3. What does it mean that there is 'rejoicing in the presence of the angels' when someone repents? How should this truth impact our view of repentance?
4. The Pharisees lost their burden for reaching the lost through separation and avoidance. How can we guard against becoming isolated from people who need Jesus?
5. When was the last time you intentionally shared a meal or meaningful conversation with someone far from God? What holds us back from doing this more often?

6. How does understanding that God 'sees, seeks, and celebrates' change your perspective on your own spiritual journey?
7. Pastor Kevin said that repentance is not just a one-time thing but something we do daily. What areas of your life might God be calling you to 'return' to Him?
8. How can we join God in His 'all-out rescue mission' for those He loves during this Christmas season?

Life Application

This week, intentionally reach out to someone who is far from God. Invite them for a meal, coffee, or meaningful conversation. Look for opportunities to share God's love through relationship, just as Jesus did when He welcomed sinners and ate with them.

Key Takeaways

1. God sees us when we are lost and notices when we lose our way in life
2. God seeks us with intense, persistent love - the value of what is lost determines the intensity of the search
3. God celebrates when we repent and return to Him - our repentance brings joy to the heart of the Father
4. We can lose our burden for reaching the lost through separation and isolation from those who need Jesus
5. Jesus invested His life in us, showing our incredible worth to God

Ending Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for this reminder of how precious we are to You. Thank You that You see us, seek us, and celebrate when we return to You. Help us to live with the confidence that comes from knowing our worth in Your eyes. Give us hearts that mirror Yours - hearts that see, seek, and celebrate when the lost are found. Show us opportunities this week to share Your love with others through relationship and invitation. May we never lose sight of the joy that comes from joining You in Your rescue mission. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who left His home in glory to make a way for us to be at home with You forever. Amen.