

Saint Philip AME Church  
240 Candler Rd S.E.  
Atlanta, GA 30317  
Rev. William D. Watley, Ph. D., Senior Pastor  
Rev. Roy Jones, Jr. D.Min., Executive Minister (Presenter)  
Crossover means Rescue and Recover  
**June 4, 2019**

In Luke 15 Jesus teaches about the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. The sheep got lost naturally; the coin got lost accidentally; and the son got lost willfully. In each of the three cases someone went out to look for what was lost or assisted in some kind of way. (Luke 15:4, 8, 20).

Jesus teaches the importance of seeking and saving the lost after the religious leaders grumbled or complained about how much time Jesus spent with tax collectors and sinners. Every person has value. Every soul is important. Instead of retreating and appeasing the wishes of the religious leaders, Jesus reminded them of His priorities, which was to seek and to save the lost.

**Luke 15:1-7 (NLT)**  
**Parable of the Lost Sheep**

*1 Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. 2 This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them! 3 So Jesus told them this story: 4 “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. 6 When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ 7 In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away!*

When people are lost, missing or kidnapped it is deeply disturbing, horrifying and sad. To find a person after they have been missing for months or years is truly a miracle. It takes strength, faith, endurance, commitment and courage to overcome the odds. However, it's possible.

- Missing Hiker
- Nigerian girl found two years after being kidnapped
- Thanks to an Arizona traffic stop, two-year-old and a seven-year-old were found more than a month after reported missing in Louisiana
- A lady from China was found after she had been missing for ten years

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People wonder away from the faith; family and the church and help is needed from many people or place for rescue and recovery. All of us know someone who is spiritually lost. We all know someone who is struggling to find their way.

**Luke 15:8-10**  
**Parable of the Lost Coin**

*8 “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won’t she light a lamp and sweep the entire house and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.’ 10 In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels when even one sinner repents.”*

- Cell phones
- Lost keys
- Missing eyeglasses or sunglasses
- Lost
- Wallet

Charles Spurgeon uttered, “Have you no wish for others to be saved? Then you’re not saved yourself, to be sure of that!”

**1 Samuel 30:1-16 (NLT)**

*1 Three days later, when David and his men arrived home at their town of Ziklag, they found that the Amalekites had made a raid into the Negev and Ziklag; they had crushed Ziklag and burned it to the ground. 2 They had carried off the women and children and everyone else but without killing anyone. 3 When David and his men saw the ruins and realized what had happened to their families, 4 they wept until they could weep no more. 5 David’s two wives, Ahinoam from Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal from Carmel, were among those captured. 6 David was now in great danger because all his men were very bitter about losing their sons and daughters, and they began to talk of stoning him. But David found strength in the LORD his God. 7 Then he said to Abiathar the priest, “Bring me the ephod!” So Abiathar brought it. 8 Then David asked the LORD, “Should I chase after this band of raiders? Will I catch them?” And the LORD told him, “Yes, go after them. You will surely recover everything that was taken from you!” 9 So David and his 600 men set out, and they came to the brook Besor. 10 But 200 of the men were too exhausted to cross the brook, so David continued the pursuit with 400 men. 11 Along the way they found an Egyptian man in a field and brought him to David. They gave him some bread to*

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*eat and water to drink. 12 They also gave him part of a fig cake and two clusters of raisins, for he hadn't had anything to eat or drink for three days and nights. Before long, his strength returned. 13 "To whom do you belong, and where do you come from?" David asked him. "I am an Egyptian—the slave of an Amalekite," he replied. "My master abandoned me three days ago because I was sick. 14 We were on our way back from raiding the Kerethites in the Negev, the territory of Judah, and the land of Caleb, and we had just burned Ziklag." 15 "Will you lead me to this band of raiders?" David asked. The young man replied, "If you take an oath in God's name that you will not kill me or give me back to my master, then I will guide you to them." 16 So he led David to them, and they found the Amalekites spread out across the fields, eating and drinking and dancing with joy because of the vast amount of plunder they had taken from the Philistines and the land of Judah.*

**John 14:12-13 (NLT)**

*12 "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. 13 You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father.*

Rick Warren, declared, "The way you store up treasure in heaven is by investing in getting people there."