

## “Making Goals for Growth”

Text: Luke 15:1-10

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Park Boulevard Presbyterian Church ([www.pbpc.org](http://www.pbpc.org))

Oakland, California

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What is a winner? The world views a winner as someone who gains a victory or strives over an adversary.

- President Obama
- Super Bowl
- Sickness (Bill)

The journey to being a “winner” is often a hard road. Goals are made, training necessary, obstacles overcome, perseverance needed. The world celebrates a winner.

How does this translate in God’s economy? What is a “winner” in God’s view? How does the Kingdom of God respond to a winner?

### Read Luke 15:1-10

### PRAY!

Jesus’ parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin help us to understand God’s view of a “winner”. A winner is two-fold. The sinner who turns to God is a winner. Through Jesus’ death and resurrection he or she has victory over sin and death. And the one who leads the sinner to God is also a winner. God goes to great lengths to seek out the lost and bring them into His kingdom. The Bible tells us that the angels in heaven rejoice; they party when one sinner repents and returns to God. God is looking for winners.

Jesus commands His followers to be winners. Jesus tells us in Matthew 28 to “*Go and make disciples of all nations...*” He says partner with Me in reaching out to the lost and winning them to faith. Let’s examine how Jesus models this in these parables:

#### I. First, you need God’s heart for the lost.

A. Luke 19:10, “*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*”

We see in the parables the high value that God places on the individual, especially the lost. In the parable of the lost sheep, it may seem foolish for the shepherd to leave 99 sheep to go search for just one. But the shepherd knew that the 99 would be safe in the sheepfold, whereas the lost sheep was in danger. And yet, because the sheep was highly prized and loved, the shepherd knew that it was critical to search diligently for the lost one. God’s love for the individual is so great that He seeks out each one and rejoices when he or she is found.

- B. The parable of the lost coin reveals a woman who has ten coins and loses one. Palestinian women would receive 10 silver coins as a wedding gift. Besides their monetary value, these coins held sentimental value like that of a wedding ring, and to lose one would be extremely distressing. We see from this parable that each individual is precious to God. He grieves over every loss and rejoices whenever one of His children is found and brought into the Kingdom.
- C. John 3:16 tells us, *“For God so loved the world that that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* The Bible says God is love. He has a deep love and passion for all people and wants all people to be saved and brought into His kingdom. God seeks those who are lost, so they can be found.
- D. John 20:21, Jesus says, *“As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you.”* Just as God sent Jesus to seek the lost, Jesus sends us out to seek the lost. Perhaps we would have more joy in our churches if we shared Jesus’ love and concern for the lost, diligently seeking them, and rejoicing when they come to the Savior.
- E. How do you share Jesus’ love and concern for the lost?
  1. Ask God to give you a heart for people who don’t know Him.
  2. Ask God to open your eyes to see people who need Jesus.
  3. Start praying for unbelievers in your life.
  4. Do an RAK (Monday at BART, 7:30 am)
  5. Go on a short-term mission trip (Albania in July)

## II. Second, you need to associate with the lost.

- A. Luke 15:1-2, *“Now the tax collectors and ‘sinners’ were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, ‘This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.’”*  
 Why were the Pharisees and teachers of religious law bothered that Jesus associated with these people? The religious leaders were always careful to stay “clean” according to Old Testament law. In fact, they went well beyond the law in their avoidance of certain people, situations, and in their ritual washing. By contrast, Jesus took their concept of “cleanness” lightly. He risked defilement by touching those who had leprosy and by neglecting to wash in the Pharisees’ prescribed manner. Jesus showed complete disregard for their sanctions against associating with certain classes of people. He came to offer salvation to sinners and to demonstrate that God loves them. Jesus didn’t worry about the accusations. Instead, He continued going to those who needed Him, regardless of the effect these rejected people might have on His reputation. How are you following Jesus’ example?
- B. Jesus intentionally went where the people were; where the lost were. Who are the lost, the unbelievers in your life?
  1. Work world – Katz Comm.
  2. Neighborhood – Upper Rockridge
  3. Family
  4. Extra-curricular activities – baseball team, music, sports, activities, exercise classes
  5. Canvassing

- C. Are you intentionally reaching out to unbelievers?
  - 1. Have an unbeliever over for dinner or go out to dinner with them. If you're single make sure it's a member of the same sex. If you're a family, invite a non-Christian family to your home for a meal.
  - 2. Invite them to an activity you are involved with, a Christian activity or not.
    - A's game
- D. People want to know that you're interested in them before they are open to what interests you.
- E. Did you know that most Christians do not have non-Christian friends two years after receiving Jesus? It takes faith and work to reach out intentionally to unbelievers, to associate with them. Remember what Jesus said, "*According to your faith will it be done to you.*" With no faith, you do nothing. With faith, you can do much for the Lord.
- F. Next Step: Invest and invite
  - 1. Insert

### III. Third, you need to share the Good News of God's Kingdom with the lost.

- A. In both parables once the sheep or coin is found it says, "*There will be rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents.*" In order for the lost to be found, for the unbeliever to come to God, he or she must repent. How does this take place?
- B. Peter proclaimed the need for repentance in Acts 2:38: "*Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*" The lost need to hear how they can be found. They need to know how to repent and turn to God.
- C. Repentance is a change of mind that leads to change of behavior. Unbelievers need to change their minds about what they believe concerning Jesus Christ. They need to move from unbelief to belief that Jesus Christ paid the penalty for their sin; that He died for their sins.
- D. How does this happen? Romans 10:14-15, "*How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news."* You and I must bring good news to unbelievers.
- E. Jesus said in Matthew 28:19 "*Go and make disciples of all nations...*" This is a command from Jesus. It is not an option for any of us. Jesus wants each of you to share your own verbal witness to the lost. You share your faith, you grow in your faith.
- F. 2009 is the year for PBPC to learn outreach. God has placed this on my heart and with God's help we will give Him something to celebrate. Here are some of the activities planned:
  - 1. Invest & Invite - friends
  - 2. Teach you how to share the gospel
  - 3. Canvassing the neighborhood
  - 4. BART RAK

5. Life Groups RAK
6. Community RAK
7. Food Drive at Easter
8. Attend Spring concerts at Glenview and Edna Brewer
9. Back pack give-away to Glenview Elementary in August

Remember, heaven is waiting to celebrate when one sinner repents and comes to Jesus, the Savior. Before you were a believer, God sought you; and He is still seeking those who are yet to become His children. God is calling you to join Him in seeking to save the lost. Will you be a winner in God's sight?

**PRAY!**