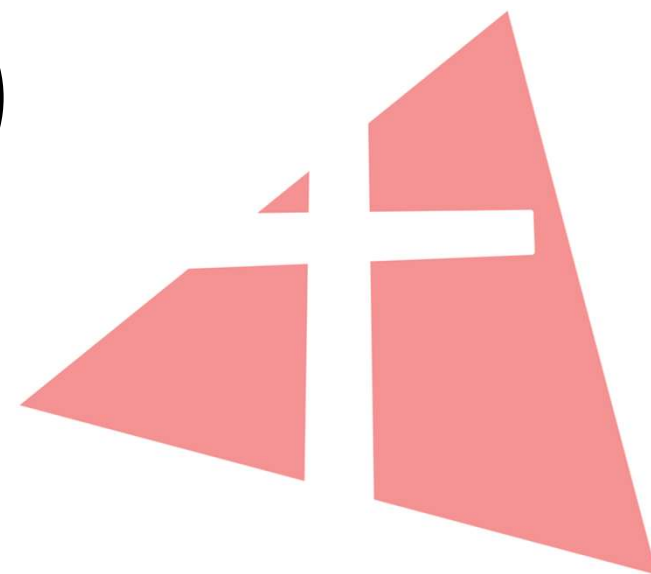


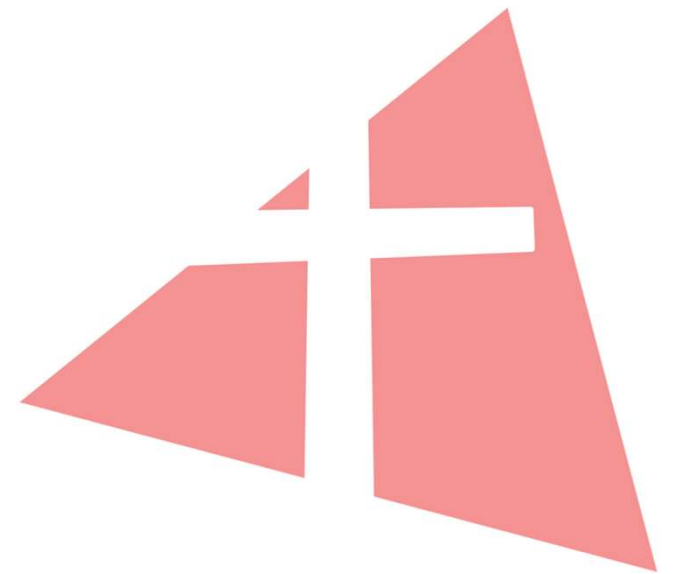
Who is God? Who am I? Lost and Found (Part 1)

August 11th 2024



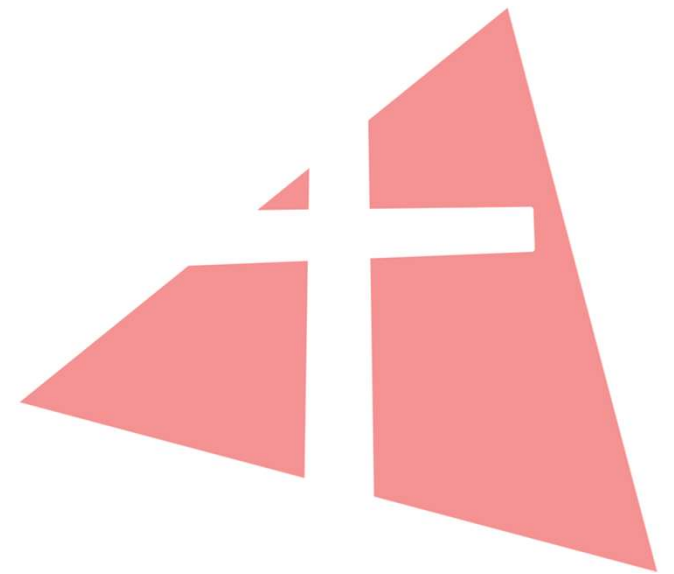
Our Series

- **Who is God?**
- **Who am I?**



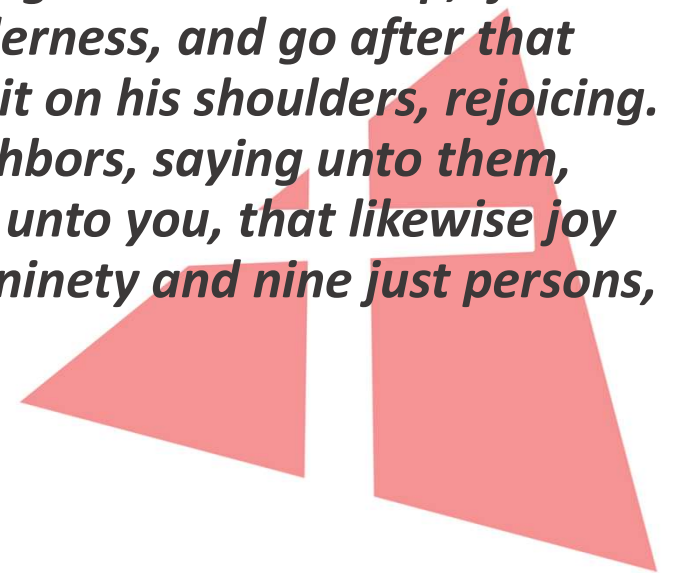
Today's Focus

- **Lost and Found**



Today's Passage

Luke 15:1-7 Then drew near unto him all the tax collectors and sinners to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receives sinners, and eats with them. And he spoke this parable unto them, saying, What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that 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 neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repents, more than over ninety and nine just persons, who need no repentance.



The Setting

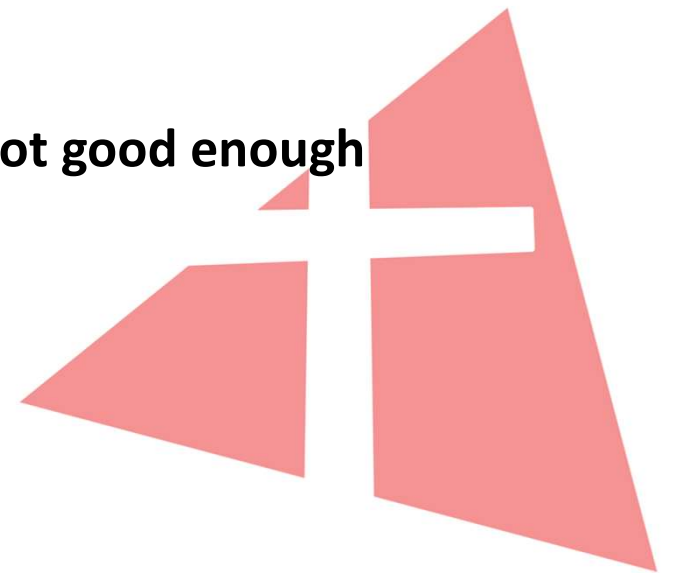
- Jesus is hanging out with tax collectors and sinners
- The Pharisees are checking out what's going on

Luke 15:1-2 Then drew near unto him all the tax collectors and sinners to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receives sinners, and eats with them.



The Dynamics

- **The Pharisees were self-righteous**
 - They thought they were “good enough for God”
- **The tax collectors were told their whole lives that they were not good enough**
 - They were excluded



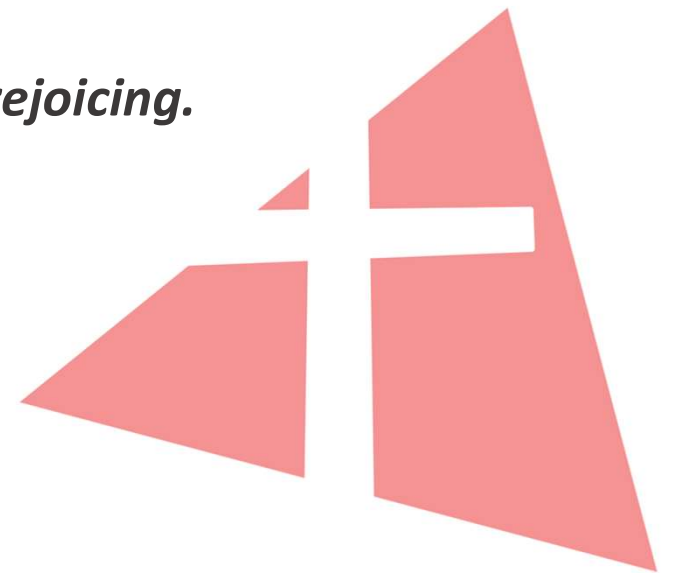
God's Heart

Luke 15:3-4 And he spoke this parable unto them, saying, What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he finds it?



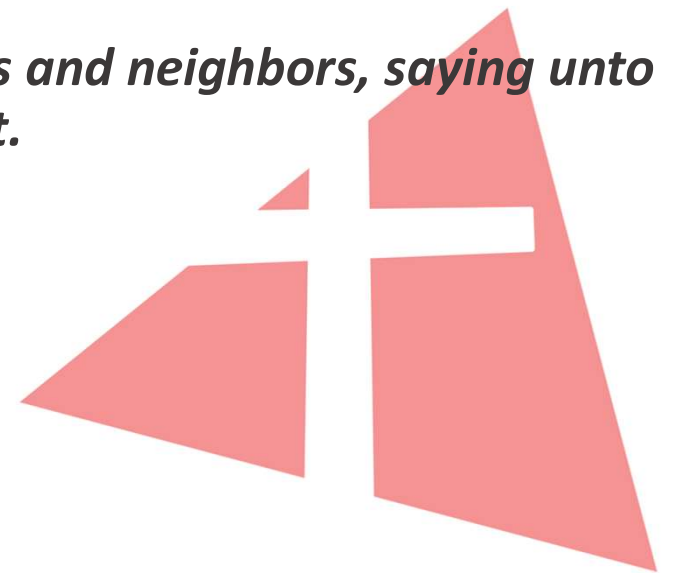
God's Heart

Luke 15:5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.



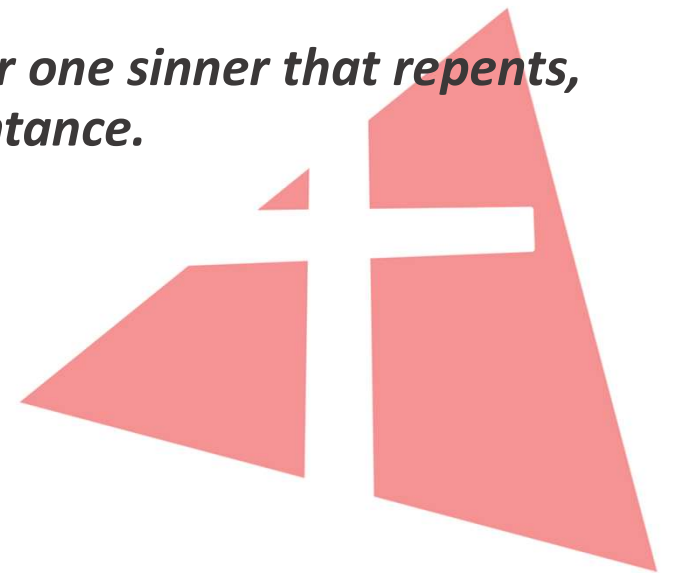
God's Heart

Luke 15:6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.



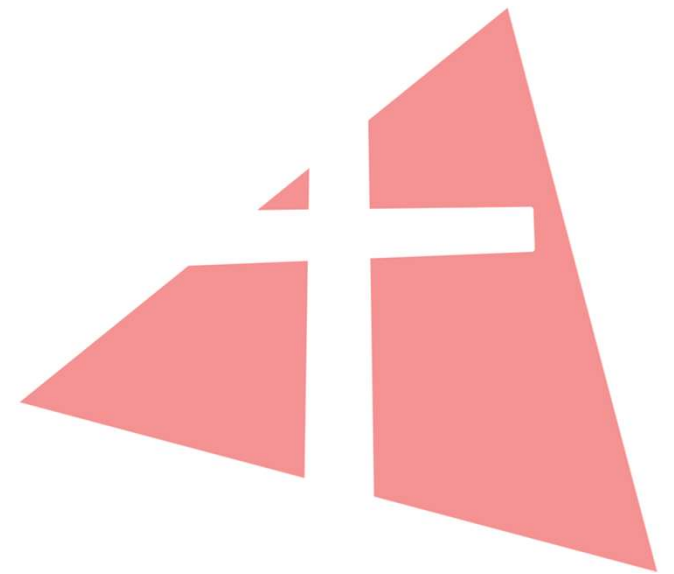
God's Heart

Luke 15:7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repents, more than over ninety and nine just persons, who need no repentance.



Application

- **We need to put ourselves INTO the story**
 - Part of us is self-righteous
 - Part of us is humble and realizes that we need forgiveness



The Pharisee Side of us

- **When we think and act like the Pharisees, God leaves us alone and waits for us to acknowledge again how lost we are**



The Tax Collector Side of us

- **When we acknowledge our sinfulness and need for God, God comes to find us and restore us**



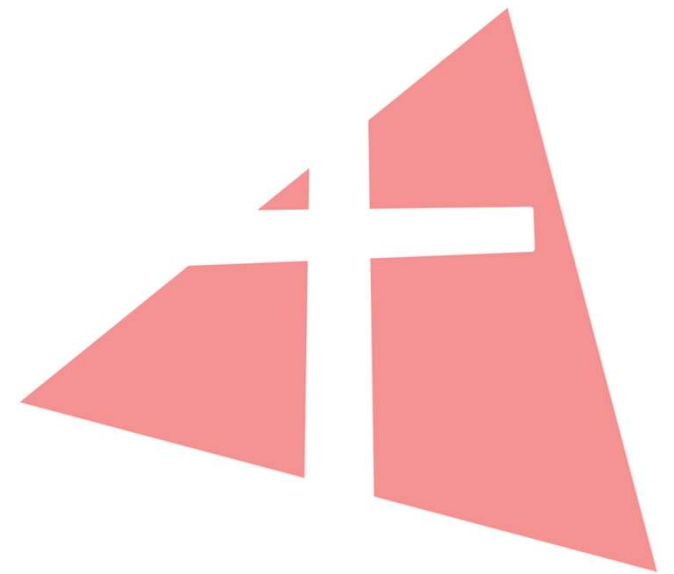
God's Principle

Matthew 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.



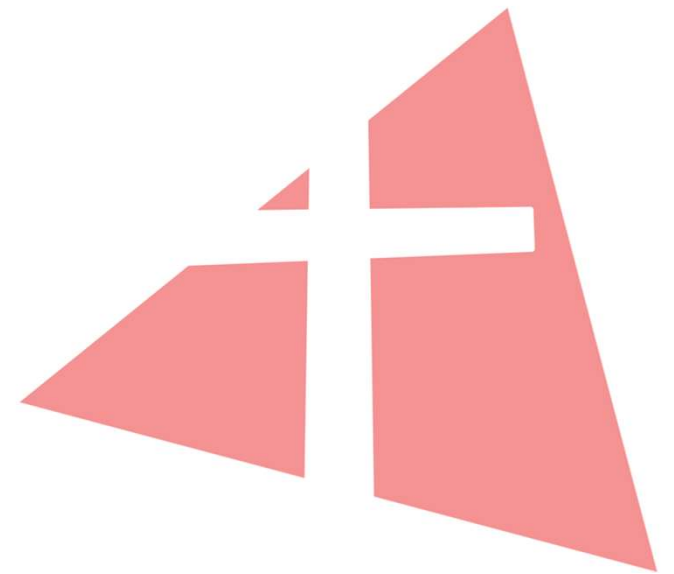
Application

- **We all have both aspects in our hearts**
- **We all have a choice how we want to relate to God**
 - Like a Pharisee
 - Like a tax collector and sinner
- **God will relate to us based on our choice**



Next 2 Weeks

- **The Parable of the Waiting Father**
 - The younger son
 - The older son



In Conclusion

- **We have a choice**
- **Our human nature tells us to take the wrong choice**
- **By Faith we can humble ourselves and allow God to restore us**

