

The Wednesday Word, January 10, 2018: 'Until' Part 1

Lk 15:4; "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?"

Perhaps you know the story of an ad that appeared in the "Lost and Found" section of a local paper. It read, "Lost Dog: Crippled in front paw, blind in left eye, mange on back and neck, tail missing. Answers to the name 'Lucky.'

Funny!

Actually, Lucky was a blessed dog because, in spite of all that was wrong with him, somebody loved him and was searching for him.

In point of fact, we're a bit like old Lucky. God loves us, not for any quality about us or in us, but loves us because He loves us with the love of grace and the grace of love.

Wonder of wonders! God came to seek and to save that which was lost and He kept seeking UNTIL He found us. He has found and rescued us. He will never leave or lose us.

Let's say it again, we were lost and Jesus found us. And what part did we play in this drama? Did we help to find ourselves? No indeed! Our part was to stray and we did it with excellence. My friend Keith Lamb says it like this, 'The only thing God expected from us was sin and He was never disappointed.'

The just and holy Law of God had come rightly demanding that we love God with all. According to this Law, we ought to have Him as our first priority. But we went astray. None of us sought God with our whole hearts (Romans 3:11).

Nevertheless, all hope had not vanished, for Grace said, I will come and seek until I find! "But Brother," you say, "What about our free will?" Listen to me, our wills are free only to wander farther and farther from the Love and Mercy of the Saviour. We by nature are lost sinners. Many people generally admit to being sinners but precious few admit to being lost sinners and nothing else.

Nonetheless, our Shepherd seeks us 'Until' He finds. What determination and persistence.....Until!!! None of the barricades we erected got in His way. Not the barricade of Self-righteousness, not that of indifference, neither the enmity towards our Saviour nor the hatred of men...none of these things deterred Him in His search, for He seeks UNTIL He finds.

'I sought the Lord, and afterwards I knew
He moved my soul to seek Him, seeking me.
It was not I who found, O Saviour true,
No, I was found by Thee.'

Here's a beautiful truth bathed in Gospel understanding. When we find Christ, we discover that we were the ones who were lost and it was He who did all the finding.

There is no other faith like this. Gospel Christianity stands apart from all other ways of approaching God. Religion demands that we make every effort to get to God...but the God who seeks the lost and seeks until He finds is a revolutionary idea birthed in Heaven.

Only the lost can be found by Jesus,
In much the same way, only the sick need a Doctor
And only the self-satisfied cannot receive grace.
Only the poor in Spirit can receive the riches of Grace.
And it's only the naked who can be clothed.

It's all of Grace!

And that's the Gospel Truth!