



DIGGING DEEPER

Hearing the Message – The Lost Sheep

PLEASE READ – Luke 15:1-10

THE SETTING

Do you have ears that hear?

When you first discovered we were looking at the parable of lost sheep, what was your reaction?

How can we learn to be more open to hearing new things from familiar passages?

Of the three groups of people, (Pharisees, 'sinners', disciples) who are you most comfortable identifying with?

How can we be on our guard against the 'yeast of the Pharisees'?

THE STORY

Read the parable itself v4-6 Discuss

What are the things that strike you? (There is so much packed into so few words!)

Do you 'feel' the tension, and the joy?

Which of the three groups of people would relate to the sheep story?

Which group might relate better to the woman who lost a coin?

THE SIGNIFICANCE

Read and compare v7 and v10. Note the similarities and differences.

Who is rejoicing? How does that compare with your previous thinking?

The rejoicing is because a sinner repents. Spend some time thinking about Repentance.

What does true repentance involve?

Is it an event or an ongoing attitude?

Is there scope to emphasise it more in our explanation of the gospel?

"The call to Repentance isn't a demand to start being religious. The call to Repentance is an Invitation to God's Mercy"

Is this statement true?

Does it help us be more positive about the need for and blessing of true repentance?

Take away for reflection: how can I improve my 'hearing' (when listening to God's words)?