



Rescued

*A Three Week Study Using Three Parables
Of Jesus*



March 9:

Rescued from the World

March 16:

Rescued from Sin

March 23:

Rescued from ourselves

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Rescued from the World

Warm-up: What would be a good reason to sue someone for money? Why?

The Parable of the Defendant *Luke 12:57-59*

57 "And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? 58 As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison. 59 I tell you, you will never get out till you have paid the very last copper."

- Why do you think Jesus started this parable with a question?
- Why does Jesus suggest to the accused to make an effort to settle with him?
- What can we take from V. 59?
- Does being rescued from our sin coincide with settling our debts?
- How does settling our debts effect how the world perceives Christians?

Application

After reading this passage, how should you handle future disagreements/accusations with other People? Are there any people you need to go to and settle the disagreement?





Meditation: A number of Jesus' parables deal with crises and impending judgment. What's the point of the parable of the defendant? When you see trouble ahead, foresight can help you avert the worst! If you were up against a bad cause and were likely to get severely penalized, would you not try to settle the case out-of-court to avoid a worse penalty? This parable points to the urgency of getting right with God. Each of us stands in constant need of God's love and mercy. His light reveals what is in our hearts and his grace frees us from the tyranny of sin. God's call is urgent and his grace is available for complete transformation in Christ. Are you ready for his grace and action in your life?

"Lord, change my heart and my life that I may fully live for you. Help me to choose what is right and to turn away from every sin and from every attachment to worldliness which keeps me from loving and serving you wholeheartedly."

1) <http://www.rc.net/wcc/readings/parables.htm>
"the Parables of Jesus"

Jamieson Faussett Brown

Let them hasten to make their peace with God in time, before it be too late, v. 58, 59. This we had upon another occasion, Mt. 5:25, 26. 1. We reckon it our wisdom in our temporal affairs to compound with those with whom we cannot contend, to agree with our adversary upon the best terms we can, before the equity be foreclosed, and we be left to the rigour of the law: "When thou goest with thine adversary to the magistrate, to whom the appeal is made, and knowest that he has an advantage against thee, and thou art in danger of being cast, thou knowest it is the most prudent course to make the matter up between yourselves; as thou art in the way, give diligence to be delivered from him, to get a discharge, lest judgment be given, and execution awarded according to law." Wise men will not let their quarrels go to an extremity, but accommodate them in time.



Rescued from Sin

The Parable of the Lost Sheep Mathew 18:10-14

10"See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.^[a]

12"What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?

13And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. 14In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.

Warm-up: Do you have a favorite movie where the plot is based off of rescuing a person or a group of people.

Why is the movie your favorite?

- What does this parable say about God and how he feels about each person he created?
- Why is the man happier about his one sheep being found than the other 99 not wandering off?
- How are we like the one sheep that wandered off and how is God like the man who owned that sheep?
- How has God rescued you from your own sin?
- Why is it so important that Jesus says in V. 13 "I tell you the truth,"?

Application

Is there a time in your life that God rescued you? How did you feel? How has your life changes since?





Meditation: What can we learn from the lesson of Jesus' parable about a lost sheep? This parable gives us a glimpse of the heart of a true shepherd, and the joy of a community reunited with its lost members. Shepherds not only had to watch over their sheep by day and by night; they also had to protect them from wolves and lions who preyed upon them, and from dangerous terrain and storms.

The shepherd's grief and anxiety is turned to joy when he finds the lost sheep and restores it to the fold. The shepherd searches until what he has lost is found. His persistence pays off. What was new in Jesus' teaching was the insistence that sinners must be sought out time and time again. How easy to forget and be distracted with other matters while the lost become prey for devouring wolves of the soul. The Apostle Peter reminds us that the "devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking some one to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). God does not rejoice in the loss of anyone, but desires that we be saved and restored to friendship with him. That is why the whole community of heaven rejoices when one sinner is found and restored to fellowship with God. God is on a rescue mission today to save us from the destructive forces of sin and evil. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, watches over every step we take. Do you listen to his voice and heed his wise counsel? Do you follow the path he has set for you - a path that leads to life rather than death?

"Lord Jesus, nothing escapes your watchful gaze and care. May I always walk in the light of your truth and never stray from your loving presence."

1) <http://www.rc.net/wcc/readings/parables.htm>
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Rescued from Ourselves

The Parable of the Rich Man *Luke 12:13-21*

13 One of the multitude said to him, "Teacher, bid my brother divide the inheritance with me." 14 But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or divider over you?" 15 And he said to them, "Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." 16 And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; 17 and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' 18 And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' 21 So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Warm-up: If you were a collector of goods, what would you collect? (books, paintings, movies, cars, etc...)

- Define what it is to covet?
- Where did the rich man in this parable first go wrong?
- Why this parable significant to the brothers fighting over inheritance?
- How does this parable relate to us today and the society we live in?
- What should've the rich man done? Why?
- Why would the rich man's actions anger God so much that He would call him a "Fool"?
- What are the differences between Earthly and Heavenly riches?

Application

- *Are there possessions or gifts that has blessed you with that you have coveted?
- *How can you begin to be a blessing to others with the blessings God has given you?





Meditation: In Jesus' time it was customary for people to take their disputes to the rabbis for settlement. Jesus refuses such a case and instead gives the disputant a parable to "mull over". How would you react if Jesus refused to settle your dispute, but gave you a parable instead? What is the point of Jesus' story about a wealthy landowner and why does he call him a fool? Jesus does not fault him for his industriousness, but for his egoism and selfishness. Like the rich man and Lazarus, he had lost the capacity to be concerned for others. His life was consumed with his possessions and his only interests were in himself. His death was the final loss of his soul! In the parable of the rich fool Jesus gives a lesson on using material possessions. His lesson contains a warning to *beware of all covetousness*. To covet is to wish to get wrongfully what another possesses or to begrudge what God gave him. Jesus restates the commandment do not covet, but he also states that a person's *life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions*. In this little parable Jesus probes the heart -- where is your treasure? Treasure has a special connection to the heart, the place of desire and longing, the place of will and focus. The thing we most set our heart on is our highest treasure. What do you treasure most?

"Lord, free me from all covetousness and from attachment to possessions. May I wholly desire you as my treasure and portion. Help me to make good use of the material blessings you give me that I may use them generously for your glory and for the good of others."

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