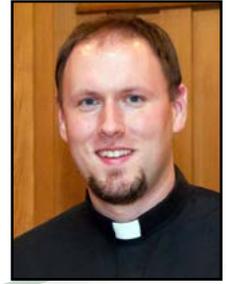




# Hear the Word

from Pastor Wesley C. Telyea



Gather... Encourage... Equip... Send

## Lenten Mid-week Worship

March 2, 2016

### Words of Power

Luke 15:1-10

How many of you have lost something that was meaningful? I am not talking about a family heirloom necessarily... it could be anything... think about it for a moment

- How did it feel losing it? Were you nervous that it might be gone forever? Were you scared someone might find out that you lost it?
- How did you react? Did you trust that it would just reappear? Did you run around the house flipping things over in hope of digging it up?
- How did it get resolved? Did you find it? Is it still an "open case?"

Whenever I think about losing things the item that always comes to my mind is Socks. You see, after Noah was born... no matter what we did... his socks always seemed to go MIA

- Now Emilee and I are type A, so having mismatched socks was just about the worse possible thing that could happen
- I remember one occasion... after moving from Berkeley to Issaquah we lost a sock...
- We spent hours rifling through boxes and suitcases looking for the missing sock
- Our family stared at us like we had completely lost our minds
- I remember Emilee's mother pulling that missing sock out of the diaper bag... and said "Is this what you're looking for?"
- Never have I felt a moment of such relief

In our reading this evening from Luke's Gospel we hear a similar story... that for those hearing it for the first time would have come across as ridiculous as this story about lost socks

- Remember where we are at in Luke's Gospel
- In Luke 9:51 Jesus said he was going start his journey to the cross where he would be crucified and where on the third day he would rise
- As he goes on this journey Jesus begins to teach and preach on some important topics
- Today's topic: Preaching about those who are lost... those who are not part of the Church
- And Jesus gives this really tough teaching: I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.
- In other words: I will be more happy to receive one of those people who you do not like, than to receive you

Let that sink in for a moment...

- Is this really that odd of a teaching... certainly its a hard teaching... but its not odd
- Mark 2:17: "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."
- Isaiah 55:89:  
"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts."
- During this season of Lent we are trying to keep our eyes on the cross
- That means we will need to set aside our preconceived notions about what it means to be a follower of Jesus
- We need to set aside our assumptions about what the cross means
- It means we need to recall God's promises that we find in his Word
- Too often I hear people say "I think Jesus would" "I feel Jesus would"
- I think and I feel a lot of things... that doesn't mean they are thoughts or feelings from God
- We have to learn to lean on what we hear in God's Word

As we walk to the cross we need this reminder... do not be so arrogant that you drive people away from the Church

- Do not be so stiff that you ignore God's Word
- Learn to... Embrace the God who is crazy enough to abandon 99 just to find the 1
- Learn to... Appreciate that you are so loved that God risks it all
- Learn to... Understand that others are just as loved
- Learn to... Seek and tell others about the reckless care we have in Jesus Christ

*Lord, give us the vision to see the world through your eyes, open our hearts to love those who are not here, and give us the passion to tell all about your reckless love. Amen.*