

June 17th 2007 Baptismal Pat Nowell: Luke 15: Determined Love

*(the other week...footy.....This lady sitting in front.....Past retirement age...
She was also adorned with all the trappings.....Adelaide footy club
How foolish for a woman such as her to act in such a way*

*Her passion is footy,,,,,,,,,her club....Adelaide.....
And her behaviour is aimed.....at showing others.....just whom she supports*

Today Pat.....do much more than just put on footy.....

She will...in front of us all.....allow herself to be dipped beneath

But she will also do it.....because she has a passion.... for the Lord

- Not only does she believe in Him.....but...**committed** her life now.....and existence after
...into His hands

She knows that she is loved by God.....**That He** has drawn her into His family

And she wants you here.....to know where she stands.....**as far** as Jesus Christ is concerned

- In particular.....thro her act...she wants you to understand....that God loves you too.....
and that He is looking to touch your heart with His love

This message of course.....same....that Jesus proclaimed

In John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever
believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

- Many then felt.....that such a claim was too inclusive

Surely they said.....God only loves the really religious people

Jews like us.....who work really hard at being good

It wouldn't be fair.....included everyone

But Jesus...on one occasion when theseholier than thou.....**having** a real go at him

...simply because he was talking to those they saw asriff raff

...told three stories.....to show....that God the Father reaches out to touch the lives of everyone

They are all found.....luke 15.....And the first.....a lost sheep

Now back in the Old Testament.....Isaiah wrote in 40:6

We all like sheep, have gone astray

So its clear that when Jesus talked.....about the lost sheep.....**It was** a story about everyone
Every human being.....has either **been** like a lost sheep...or **remained** a lostis **now** like a
.....because they are separated from God the Father

- **Some sheep are only just lost**

They have wandered into the next.....or got left behind.....by accident....when the rest

Sheep that are easily found

Some people are like that....They have grown up believing...Never really far from God
But still separated.....Still needing God to draw them into a personal relationship

(Pat Nowell)

Then of course some sheep get really lost.....They go thro the hole.....and they are gone

Takes a lot of looking.....but he eventually finds....rescues

- **And there are many people like that**.....

- They stray so far from God.....don't even realise

How much God loves them.....**And** often their lives....real mess.....before they hear the voice

The second story was about the Lost coin.....

Here is this woman who has ten.....and looses one

And the point that Jesus makes.....**is that** she puts a lot of effort into carefully looking

- **She lights a lamp**.....she sweeps through the whole house.....She searches carefully
And she doesn't give up till she finds it.

It's one of a set.....And she doesn't want her set.....to be incomplete..

In the same way.....God the creator looks upon the human race.....

.and He wants everyone to be part of His family.....

Psalm 100:3 says : ***Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His.***

We read in 2 Peter 3:9 ***The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.***

- Jesus tells us...that unfortunately this will not happen.....**He said in Matthew 7:13**

Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

- **But that doesn't stop God**.....continuously seeking to touch people's hearts
Looking for those who will respond to His love

(Adrian's story.../.....The way God looks....is to arrange circumstances.....so they are challenged.....to consider His love for them.....IS that your story today???)

- **Then there's the third story about the rebellious son**

It's the most well known.....And it's the longest

It's the worst case of them all.....for here is one who deliberately separates himself from **He** not only rebels.....but acts in a way.....so contrary to way he had been taught to act

Yet it is in this story.....that Jesus gives us the most beautiful picture of God

We see **Him**.....the wronged.....but still loving Father
Waiting on the edge.....**Lovingly** looking each day for his son.....

And when the weary....dirty.....repentant son appears.....**It's the** Father who runs to hug..
He doesn't see the sin anymore.....**The dirt**.....The grime.....**HE SEES HIS SON**

- **Could God's love for us**.....Whether we are like sheep that have strayed
Coins that have been mislaid.....Or son's that have deliberately

Ever be better described.....than here...in these three stories.....

By God the Son Himself

- **Pat has responded to that love**.....And today she declares how much that means to her
By being baptized.....

WHAT ABOUT YOU ???

