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| **Lost and Found Stories**  *Promise: through the Gospel Jesus seeks and saves the lost* Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg Ez 34:11-24; Ps 119:169-176; 1 Timothy 1:5-17; Luke 15:1-10 (14th Sunday after Pentecost, Pr. 19), 9/14/25  *“The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”* – 1Ti 1:15  **Lead In –** I think we all can appreciate a good lost and found story. And I am sure that every one of you has such a one to tell. When it comes to such stories, Leslie and I usually have quite different attitudes concerning a lost item, whether it be sunglasses, an unmatched sock, a cap, or whatever. She is usually more relaxed than I am. “It will eventually turn up,” is her motto. … Well, that got put to the test some years ago when the lost item was our first cordless, battery operated, phone. That dates us, doesn’t it! Evidently the battery was dead so trying to ring the number did not help. A diligent search of everywhere imaginable, including a brush pile outside, proved futile. We had given up until weeks later when stocking the linen closet the phone was discovered atop a pile of folded sheets.   1. **Jesus Share Two Lost and Found Stories**    1. The Maker of heaven and earth likes reclaiming…    2. Analogies have limits, God does not misplace things… 2. **Our Lost-ness Not an Accident**    1. Victimized by the craftiest beast in the garden…    2. Responsible for doubting and disobeying…    3. Sin indeed results in death… 3. **The Lord Seeks After the Lost**    1. Unlike a coin or sheep, we must surrender…    2. Taken back to the flock to be cared for…    3. Doctrine matters…   **Final Word –** When we speak of salvation, our being rescued from sin, death, and the devil, we look back to the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the Cross Jesus bore our sins, atoned for them, and made possible the gift of forgiveness and salvation available for the whole human race. Jesus’ third day resurrection from the grave demonstrated His victory over death. It also pictures our hope in sharing in a bodily resurrection like His. I hope we all realize this work of salvation comes to us through God’s Word. We can’t go back in time to the Cross. The benefits of the Cross come to us in the preaching of the Gospel. It is by His Word that the Word made flesh seeks out and finds us. And it is by faith that we receive the gift. That we share this Word faithfully matters. Sound doctrine matters. It can be a matter of life and death. It is by this means that the lost are found and reclaimed by our Savior. Amen.  **Ro 8:20-21** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.  **Ge 3:1a** Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.  **Ge 3:1b** He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”  **Jn 8:44c** When he [the devil] lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. | **Luke 15:1-10 ESV**  *Parable of the Lost Sheep*  1Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. 2And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”  3So he told them this parable: 4“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? 5And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ 7Just so, 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.  *Parable of the Lost Coin*  8“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? 9And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ 10Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”  **Ge 3:4-5** But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”  **Ge 3:6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.  **Re 12:9** And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world…  **Ro 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.  **Ge 3:24** He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.  **Ep 2:8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.  **He 10:24-25** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.  **1Ti 1:6-8** Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions. Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully… |

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