LET THE BIBLE SPEAK SERIES

Ronny F. Wade, Speaker

If I Am Lost

Luke 19:10

In Luke nineteen we read of a man named Zacchaeus, a man of small stature who climbed into a tree, in order to see Jesus as he passed by. To his surprise, the Lord went home with him that day, and announced "today salvation has come to this house because, he also is a son of Abraham. for the Son of man is come to seek and save that which was lost."

The story of salvation is the grandest subject that every engaged the mind of man. Saved in God's heaven, with the redeemed of all ages. Freed from earth's sorrows, pains, and temptations. Such thoughts fill our hearts with happy anticipation.

But what if I am lost? The contemplation of being lost forever, is the gloomiest subject that can exist in the mind of man. To be lost, to be separated from God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit is a horrible reality none would want to face. If we are lost, a number of things will be true. Among them:

I. I will not be alone. Think about it. Others will be lost as well. The scripture tells us that "no one lives to himself, and no one dies to himself." Romans 14:7. The poet said:

My life shall touch a dozen lives before this day is done. Leave countless marks for good or ill ere sets the evening sun.
This is the wish I always wish, the prayer I always pray, Lord, may my life help other lives it touches by the way.

We need to remember that Eve was not by herself in the transgression Geneses 3:1. She enticed her husband to eat of the forbidden fruit, which he did. They both died spiritually that day. The rich man in Luke 16 had five brothers who upon whom he had apparently been an influence. They two were lost and he did not want them to come to the place of torment where he was.

One of the tragedies of being lost is that we will influence someone else to be lost as well, and likely it will be someone we love. Parents who are lost, might be instrumental in leading their children astray. Our family, our friends, these are the people we influence most.

A very thoughtful father once wrote:

There are little eyes upon you, and they're watching night and day;

There are little ears that quickly take in every word you say;
There are little hands all so eager to do everything you do,
And a little boy who's dreaming of the day he'll be like you.
You're the little fellow's idol, you're the wisest of the wise
In his little mind about you no suspicions every rise.
He believes in you devoutly, holds that all you say and so
He will say and do in your way too when he's grown up like you.
There's a wide-eyed little fellow who believes you're always right,
And his ears are always open and he watches day and night.
You are setting an example every day in all that you do
For the little boy who's waiting to grow up to be like you.

If I am lost, my children may be lost as well. What a sobering thought. All parents need to take care that they live as good examples for their family.

II. <u>If I am lost, I will be lost forever.</u>
Not for just a day, or just a year, but forever. Jesus said in Matthew 25:46 "and these shall go away into everlasting punishment..." Think about it. "Everlasting punishment." No end to the pain and agony. No point in the future when it will all be over. The punishment goes on forever and forever. Paul writes in 2Thessalonians 1:7-9 "and to you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power."

There will be no second chance after death. The rich man in Luke 16:19-31 only wanted a drop of water to cool his tongue, but couldn't have it. If we are lost, there will be no turning around, no going back to fix things. All hope will be lost. A thought so sad, we can hardly bear to think about it.

III. <u>If I am lost, I will suffer a double loss.</u>
I will lose the joy of heaven and suffer the anguish of hell. I will lose the rest, peace, that comes to the redeemed and suffer the pain and torment of eternal destruction. I will lose the association of God, Christ, and all the saved, and suffer with the wicked and outcast of the earth.

In Matthew 8:12 we read "But children of the kingdom shall be cast into outer darkness there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
Think of the misery, despair, and wailing. The loss is irreparable and the suffering eternal.

IV. <u>If I am lost I will be to blame.</u>
It will be my fault, and mine alone. I cannot blame anyone else. Often we try and blame others for our mistakes, but this time, that cannot be the case. One might ask "who cares

if I am lost?" If it is my fault. what difference does it make? It makes a lot of difference. There are many who care about you.

God cares if you are lost. He gave His only Son to die for your sins. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Christ cares if you are lost. He gave His life. Matthew 20:28 "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give his life a ransom for many. Titus 2:14 "Who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto himself a peculiar people zealous of good works." Jesus died for all. He suffered greatly that you might be saved. He cares if you are lost.

The Holy Spirit cares if you are lost. We are told that He is grieved when we sin and disobey the commandments of God. He wants us to obey so that we can be saved.

The Angels care if you are lost. In Luke 15:10 we are told "Likewise I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Think about it friend, when just one sinner repents the angels rejoice. They care for you and are concerned about your salvation.

The Lost also care if you are lost. One of the striking things about being lost is the fact that those who are lost, don't want others to be lost. In Luke 16:19 the rich man, who was lost did not want his five brothers to be lost. He did not want them to come to the place of torment where he was. Some people say "if my mother is lost, I don't want to be saved." Listen if your mother was lost, she would not want you to be lost. In fact she would wish for your salvation. There are many who care for your salvation. If I am lost, it will be my fault, I alone am responsible.

Where is thy hope poor sinner, what are you going to do?
Hope is a God given anchor, lavished so freely on you.
If it is fixed in the savior, on that bright shore you shall land.
But if in sin you still linger, Sad your end.
Lost forever, Oh how sad.

Think about it, and change your ways before it is too late. Come to Christ believing the gospel, repenting of your sins, confessing Christ and being baptized in water for the remission of your sins. You will never regret that you obeyed the Lord.