

This week we have been studying parables that have the common theme of how Jesus calls to us, even in the setting of our own sin. We see illustrations from a wedding feast, an elderly widow, and a prodigal son. In all these stories Jesus shows how he is willing to pursue us in our sin to rescue us, often in spite of ourselves.

Does Jesus pursue us today?

How has Jesus pursued you in your life?

How does Jesus use us to pursue others?

Parable of the Wedding Feast:

Luk 14:7-11 Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, (8) “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, (9) and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. (10) But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. (11) For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

1. What is the lesson of this parable?
2. How do we forget this?
3. How does this show Jesus pursuing us?

Parable of the Lost Coin

Luk 15:8-10 “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? (9) And 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.’ (10) Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

1. What does the lamp signify?
2. What does the darkness signify?
3. How does this show Jesus seeking us?

Parable of the Prodigal Son

Luk 15:11-32 And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. (12) And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. (13) Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. (14) And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. (15) So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. (16) And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. (17) “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! (18) I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. (19) I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ (20) And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. (21) And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ (22) But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. (23) And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. (24) For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate. (25) “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. (26) And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. (27) And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ (28) But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, (29) but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. (30) But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ (31) And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. (32) It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

1. What do verses 12-14 illustrate?
2. What do verses 14-16 tell us about sin?
3. What do verses 17-19 illustrate?
4. What does the Father’s reaction tell us about Jesus?

5. What does the elder brother's reaction tell us? Can we see ourselves here?
6. How does this parable show Jesus pursuing us?

Eph 2:1-5 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins (2) in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— (3) among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (4) But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Augsburg Confession Article XII Repentance: | [1] Our churches teach that there is forgiveness of sins for those who have fallen after Baptism whenever they are converted. [2] The Church ought to impart Absolution to those who return to repentance [Jeremiah 3:12]. [3] Now, strictly speaking, repentance consists of two parts. [4] One part is contrition, that is, terrors striking the conscience through the knowledge of sin. [5] The other part is faith, which is born of the Gospel [Romans 10:17] or the Absolution and believes that for Christ's sake, sins are forgiven. It comforts the conscience and delivers it from terror. [6] Then good works are bound to follow, which are the fruit of repentance [Galatians 5:22–23].