

Introduction: Hope is the oxygen of the soul

- Everyone puts their hope in something or someone.
- Hope is “*a feeling that what is wanted is likely to happen.*”
Webster’s Dictionary
- We hit “rock bottom” when what or who we hoped in cannot or will not come through for us.

Rock bottom usually happens in two predictable places: The _____ and the _____.

When you hit rock bottom, the only direction you can look is up.

Where is God when you hit “rock bottom”?

Jesus’ Answer - Luke 15

- The occasion Luke 15:1
- The conflict Luke 15:2
- The parable Luke 15:3-32

This one parable has three mini stories:

1. The lost _____
2. The lost _____
3. The lost _____

Each story has five things in common:

1. Something valuable is _____.
2. An intensive _____ occurs.
3. That which was lost is _____.
4. A great _____ follows.
5. The spiritual application is _____.

What do we learn from this parable?

- God deeply values irreligious, immoral, lost people.
- God is actively drawing them to Himself.
- Heaven rejoices when one lost person repents.
- The value of that which is lost exponentially increases in each story.
(Sheep ▲ Coin ▲ Sons)
- The father in story #3 represents God.
- The two sons depict the “immoral sinners” (younger son) and Pharisees (older son).
- Both sons are equally lost, but not equally aware of their lost-ness.

Jesus Offers Hope . . . when we “blow it” big time

Luke 15:11-22

- The son's request: "I want _____ now."
- The son's message: "I wish you were _____."
- The implications for the Father: _____ and _____.
- The father's unprecedented response: _____
_____ to his listeners.

- The son hits "rock bottom" = _____ Luke 15:13-17

- The son's response to his hopelessness: Luke 15:18-20

1. I will _____ - go back home.
2. I will _____ - my sin to my father and God.
3. I will _____ - as a hired hand.
4. I will _____ - so he got up and went.

- The father's response: Luke 15:20-24

1. The best robe
2. The ring
3. The sandals
4. The fatted calf

Jesus' message: There is hope!

It's never too late! Failure is never final!

The Father is waiting, watching, and longing for _____!

Discussion Questions:

1. Where do you need hope in your life right now?
2. Which part of this story resonated the most with you?
3. Who in your relational network has hit "rock bottom" and needs to know God values them through you?
4. What step of faith do you need to take to draw near to your heavenly Father?