

Church of Christ

3361 West State Street, Fremont, OH 43420

Worship Services

Sunday Bible Study	10:00 am
Sunday Worship	10:45 am
Sunday Worship	6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 pm

Classes for all ages

Preachers: Ted Bowen and Sean Rizor

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

1. Learn the truth (Hear) (John 8:32; 17:17; Rom 10:14-18)
2. Believe in Christ (John 8:24; 20:31; Heb 11:6)
3. Repent of all sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30; Rom 2:4; 2 Cor 7:9,10)
4. Confess faith in Christ (Rom 10:10; Acts 17:30; Matt 16:16)
5. Be baptized into Christ for remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)
6. Live faithfully (Revelation 2:10)

7 THINGS TO REMEMBER DURING THE LORD'S SUPPER!

- 1 LORD. "There is one Lord." (Ephesians 4:5)
- 2 THIEVES. "There were also 2 others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death."
(Luke 23:32)
- 3 CROSSES. (Luke 23:39-43; Ephesians 1:7)
- 4 PARTS of HIS GARMENTS. "Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier, a part, and also the tunic." (John 19:23)
- 5 WOUNDS. His head was crowned with thorns. His back was scourged.
His side was cut open. His hands were pierced. His feet were pierced. (John 19-20)
- 6 HOURS of AGONY. Christ was crucified at the 3rd hour and died at the 9th hour.
(Mark 15:25-37)
- 7 SAYINGS of The CROSS. (Matthew 27:46; Luke 23:34, 43-46; John 19:26-30)

December 26, 2021

Sunday Morning

Speaker: Sean Rizor

Sunday Morning Worship Only

Birthdays

- 3 Tina Smith
- 4 Jordan Chapman
- 4 Stephanie Rizor
- 5 Chloe Rizor
- 29 Jessalyn Schadwil

Anniversaries

- 26 Paul & Connie Runion

Prayer List

Kaitlin Baker
Gen Stanley
Nora Wiseman
Jean Adkins
Deb Hall & family
Tina Smith
Betty Davis
Mike & Kathy Foos
Debbie Rowan
Charlotte Williams
Mack Stanley
Linda Holt
Mercedes Speck
Mary Schimming

LOST IN WORLDLY LIVING

Constant Coulibaly

In Luke 15, Jesus taught a lesson on the lost using three parables. The context of the teaching was that the Pharisees and scribes, like many other people, had come to Jesus to hear Him preach. But it wasn't long before these men started to antagonize Him complaining that He befriended sinners. Jesus then told them the story of a shepherd who had a hundred sheep but lost one. The shepherd left the 99 sheep in the wilderness and searched for the lost one until he found it. When he got home, he called his friends for a celebration

because he had found his lost sheep. The second story concerned a woman who had ten pieces of silver. After losing one piece, she lit a candle and swept the whole house in search for the lost coin until she found it. When she recovered the lost coin, she asked her fiends to rejoice with her.

Jesus was teaching us to have concern for sinners, diligently seek for them and bring them to God. This effort, for Christians who have abandoned the faith, means a return to the fold or church.

In order to drive home the sadness of the lost condition of sinners, Jesus told a third story. This time, He brought man into the picture. Up to now He had been speaking of a lost animal (a sheep) and a lost object (a piece of silver). But now He talked about a lost person, namely the son of "a certain man". This son asked his father for his inheritance and left the family home where he lived with his father and elder brother for a foreign country. There he spent his money "with prodigal living" until he had nothing left to eat. To make matters worse, famine hit the country. But someone was kind enough to give him a job on a farm where he fed pigs. He had hit rock bottom. But he finally came to his senses, decided to go back home to his father and he did. One of the things he said when he met his father was, "I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants" (v. 19).

Notice, when the son asked his father for his inheritance he said, "give me the portion of goods that falls to me" (see v. 12). But now he said, "Make me like one of your hired servants" (emphasis, CC). From "give me" he had turned to "make me". He had become humble. The difficulty of life had taught him humility. When people refuse to learn humility from the Lord's admonition, they learn it the hard way (see 1 Peter 5:5-6).

In what way was the son lost? He was lost after straying from his father's home. Just as the lost sheep strayed from where it belonged, that is the flock, the son strayed from where he belonged i.e. the family home and was lost. The family home was the place where he received from his father care, protection, affection and love.

He found himself in a foreign land because of his attraction for worldly living. He was like a sheep drawn by a cluster of grass, then another one, and it keeps following the grass without looking up. When it finally does, it's night, it's dark and the sheep is at the bottom of the valley. The sheep is lost!

Many today are lost because of lust for worldly things which for some leads to an exclusively pleasured-filled life or debauchery. And the ultimate price for this is separation from God that sin brings (James 1:15, Isaiah 59:1-2, Colossians 1:21, Isaiah 53:6). When you have everything but don't have God, you are the poorest man on earth. However, when you have God but possess nothing materially you are from God's perspective a rich person.

The prodigal son was lost because he had lost the sense of virtue. Inheritance became for him more important than paternal love. He knew full well that he would get his inheritance after his father's death, but he demanded it and was demonstrably guilty of lack of patience. As the father in this parable represents God and the son the child of God, it's worth saying that the attitude of the latter is to be discouraged among Christians. Second Peter 1:6 admonishes us to cultivate patience (2 Peter 1:6). Patience is one of the distinguishing traits of Christian character.

He was lost in another sense. He was lost because he felt he had ruined his life. This kind of feeling can be so overwhelming that it can lead to guilt, fear, anxiety, loneliness and low self-esteem. Remember though that when you are in such a dark place and feel everyone has abandoned you God has promised never to forsake us (Matthew 28:20, Hebrews 13:5). The father's reaction to his son's homecoming and confession teaches of God's mercy and faithfulness (1 John 1:7, Hebrews 4:16, Lamentations 3:22-23).