

## Worship Without Walls Weekend-A Church That Won't Give Up -September 1, 2019

Scripture: Luke 15, Romans 10.1,6-13

### Luke 15

Find the full text at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

### Romans 10.1, 6-13

Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.

"Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) <sup>7</sup> "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). <sup>8</sup> But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: <sup>9</sup> If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. <sup>11</sup> As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." <sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup> for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

### Read and Discuss

#### Introduction

On this worship without walls weekend, Jacob reminded us of the vision of Providence Church. *To see those who feel disconnected from God and the church find hope, healing, and wholeness in Jesus Christ.* It's been the vision of the church from the start and remains so today. It's how we take on the heart of a God who won't give up on us. Together we have been living this out while we pursue a community-wide goal of seeing Everyone Fed (end hunger), Everyone Safe (domestic abuse, sex-trafficking), Everyone Free (addiction, drug abuse), and Everyone Ready (schools) in our community. We won't give up on these audacious goals because God won't give up on us.

#### Engage the Scripture

- Read Luke 15. What kind of shepherd leaves 99 sheep in order to find 1? What kind of woman stays up and looks for 1 lost coin? What kind of father embraces his lost son who has thrown away his inheritance? What kind of God keeps pursuing us?
- In the three parables of Luke 15, Jesus was responding to the religious leaders who looked down on him for spending time with those they saw as lost. Have you ever felt like you were caught between religion and allowing yourself to be found by God? What did that look like? Has the perception of religion ever held you back from seeking out a hurting person?

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**Scripture: Luke 15, Romans 10.1,6-13**

- Read Romans 10.1,6-13. Paul teaches that we don't have to do the work of bringing Jesus "down" to earth, or raising Jesus from the dead. He is already here. The truth of the good news of Jesus Christ is already in your heart and on your lips. In what ways does this make the work of sharing Jesus easier? In what ways does it make it more difficult?
- Jacob said, "With God, the personal always become communal" Have you had a personal experience with God that you haven't shared with anyone else? What would happen if you did share it? Our own salvation (saved-ness) has a way of inviting others into it. How does that look for you? Well, you'll have to be open to opportunities to "declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord'".

### **Prayer**

O God who won't give up on us, Thank you for your relentless pursuit of your people. We tend to wander and get lost, but you welcome us back home—not with punishment but with a feast. Your love is amazing and because of it we want to believe and share the good news of new life in Jesus Christ. Amen!