

Read Luke 15: 1-14. In each parable, something valuable is lost. When it is finally found, people rejoice. There's intrinsic joy in helping to find lost people and bring them to Jesus.

Jesus was known as "the friend of sinners." Can you say the same about yourself? If not, think about your fears of being a friend to sinners?

Consider Paul in 1 Corinthians 9: 19-23.

To win others to Christ, we must share the content of the gospel. People will not be converted by watching our lives alone, without hearing the good news about Christ. But what Paul tells us here is that we should remove all cultural barriers that would needlessly distract or offend those we are trying to reach. We don't want our outward appearance or political views to be the issue. We want the gospel to be the issue.

We should share Christ with those we meet each day, but in doing so, we do not need to fear that we will do something wrong in our presentation. It is God who opens the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf so that they can hear (Isaiah 35:5).

Have you ever messed up so badly that it left you believing God wants nothing to do with you? If your answer is "yes," then you're in good company because we all have! We've made poor choices and bad decisions. God loved us just the same!

We need to love people in the same way. How can we shake off our apathy, that we sometimes don't even know we have, and develop a passion to win the lost?

If you feel the Lord speaking to you about leaving your comfort zone to mingle with sinners, wrestle with it and ask God to change you!

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"Not So" Chance Encounters With Jesus

The Calling of Levi

Pastor Rick Rufenacht



Mark 2:13-17 Luke 5:27-32

Everybody is a possibility

Psalm 139:14-16 Rom 5:8 Mt 9:9

Offer = response

John 3:16 John 1:10-14 Matt 10:37-38

Denial is not just a river in Egypt

Rom 3:10 Rom 3:23 Rom 1:18-20