

I. The lost condition of people

- A. We are separated from God because of sin

“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us have turned to his own way.” (Isaiah 53:6)

- B. We are separated from eternal life

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.” (John 3:36)

- C. We are separated from our purpose

- D. We are in great danger

II. The loving heart of the Father seeks us

“Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, ‘Where are you?’ (Genesis 3:8-9)

- A. We are of great value to God

“For God so loved the world that what he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

- B. God searches earnestly for us

“This is what the Sovereign Lord says; ‘I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.’” (Ezekiel 34:11)

- C. God searches persistently for us

“In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.” (Matthew 18:14)

III. The desire of God is for us to be found

“He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

- A. God sent Jesus to find lost people

\*Picture of shepherd statue

“For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost.” (Luke 19:10)

- B. God calls us to join the search

“We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.” (2 Corinthians 5:20)

- C. We must respond through repentance and faith in Jesus

“Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.” (Isaiah 55:7)

- IV. The joy when the lost are found
- A. There is joy for the one who is found
  - B. There is joy for the one who was searching
  - C. There is joy for those who hear that the lost is found
  - D. There is joy from the throne of heaven