

Message Notes ~ March 7, 2010

“PRELUDE TO THE PASSION ~ “The Lost Sheep””

Clarifying The Series

- Three Parables of Mercy
 - The Lost Sheep Matt. 18:10-14
 - Unmerciful Servant Matt. 18:21-35
 - Words in the Vineyard Matt. 20:1-16
- Three Death and Resurrection Projections
 - 16:21 – Religious leaders
 - 17:22 – Betrayed
 - 20:17 – Handed over to Gentiles

Setting the Stage – “Seeing the Thread”

- “You are the Christ – Son of God” Matt. 16:13-20
- First Prediction Matt. 16:21-28
- The Transfiguration – Divine Nature and Nature of the Battle
Matt. 17:1-21; Luke 9:30-31
- Second Prediction Matt. 17:22-23
- Fish with Cash – is Jesus disloyal to the Temple? Matt. 17:24-27
- The Greatest? Those who humbly believe as children Matt. 18:1-5
- The cause and action in falling away Matt. 18:6-9
- Angels and Little Ones Matt. 18:10
- Something’s missing here! Matt. 18:11

The Lost Sheep

1. Matthew 18:12-14

- The Shepherd makes every effort to ensure the return of those who fall away
 - Angels
 - A Shepherd who searches

2. Luke 15:1-7

- Religious leaders complain that Jesus eats with sinners
- The Shepherd pursues those who are apart from Him
 - Before you were a believer God sought you

3. Take Aways

- God’s mercy is for all:
 - Those who know Him and are lost (Matt. 18)
 - Those who are lost and do not know Him (Lk. 15)
- God’s mercy is in His pursuit Genesis 3:9
- God’s mercy is in His extraordinary love
- God’s mercy is in His rescue plan – the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus

Feel far from God? Don’t despair – He’s searching for you!