



ACCM

Bible Study: Thursday, October 4th, 2018. **TOPIC: THE BACKSLIDDEN CHRISTIAN Part 2**

TEXT: Luke 15:1-32

When a person departs from our community, it is expected for us to pull back from such a person and see him as not being part of us. That should not be the attitude of a true church of Christ. Yes, some of us might pull back for one reason or the other. If we do this, we are not operating as a church but as a hang out zone or simply as a community. The church is not just a community, it is more than a community. It is the Ekklesia or the called-out ones or the chosen ones. What sets a Christian apart from the non-Christian is the ability to love the unlovable and to operate out of the norms of this world. When we see the church as a political entity, a hang out zone or a mere community where number is of high worth, we tend to let those who have departed from us go away and look for new people to fill the space. We do not look at the backslider with strong concern because it has to do with his or her soul in eternity. We will rather look at him or her like someone who has joined another political party or has depleted our resources. With this view, we do not care about their souls. Today, we want to continue with our discussion about the backslidden Christian as we focus on how the church should treat backsliders.

DISCUSSION:

1) **ANALYSIS OF THE LOST ITEMS.**

In the text we read three objects were missing. They are the sheep, the coin and the son.

Let us examine the characteristics of these objects:

The Sheep: The lost sheep might not have intended to get lost. It simply wandered away enjoying some fun.

The lost coin: The woman lost the coin. It was her carelessness that made the coin to get missing. Compare this woman with the church. Compare the coin with a reluctant backslider who is not interested in coming back. The woman spends so much trying to find this coin. She gets a lamp which will use some oil. Do we still spend money and time to bring back reluctant backsliders?

The lost son requested for his birth right before time, then planned his exit, he did not discuss his decision with his father, he left for a far country where it will be hard to reach him. Wasted his birth right, returned home by himself. He is an example of a typical runaway backslider who wants to get away from God and all that has to do with God. The prodigal (reckless, extravagant) son did not return a rich fellow. He came back in rags. He had no tithes and offering to give. Every backslider comes back in spiritual rags.

The father was not focused on what he could derive from his son but what he could give his son.

2) **HOW DOES GOD FEEL WHEN A BACKSLIDER RETURNS TO HIM?** Luke 15:7, 10, 19:10

So how should we feel also?

Why should a Christian be concerned about the restoration of a backslider?

1. It adds to our reward in heaven and it shows we are wise. Dan 12:3
2. It is our responsibility – II Cor 5:11a
3. You save a soul from death. James 5:20
4. A desire to win people for God I Cor 9:19b
5. Jesus did it Luke 22:31
6. The backslider could be you. Gal 6:1-2
7. It is a sign of pure love.

CONCLUSION: God created us so that we can walk together and be helpful to one another. Ecc 4:9-10. So, when we see a believer backsliding, it is our job to let him or her know that something is going wrong and it needs to be fixed. You do not wait until the believer has backslidden terribly before you begin to talk. A backsliding believer is not an

object of gossip but someone that needs help. We must sharpen our brethren when things are getting blunt, so we will be able to get them up. Prov 27:17.