What Do You Think About God?

Mark Roberts · Luke 15:1–7 · Series: **Meeting with Mark Roberts**

INTRODUCTION

- What do you think of God? Maybe I should start by asking, are you ever thinking about God?
- I think this is an enormously important question because it determines so much of how we live.
- God wants to be known. God wants to be known accurately.

1 It's Just Stupid to Get Lost

Genesis 2:15–17; Genesis 3:1–6; Isaiah 53:6

- One of the things the man came to understand is it's just stupid to get lost.
- Everything they needed right there in the back yard. And in fact, by getting out, they actually risked everything.
- What made the garden so special was that relationship that they had with God. Everything built on trusting him and on obeying him.
- All we like sheep have gone astray. We have turned everyone to his own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
- We have been told the very purpose for our existence is to honor and glorify him. And instead of being true to that, we selfishly do as we please.
- Dogs just act like dogs. They are creatures of instinct. You and I are not. We can hear the voice of the Lord.

2 God Makes Massive Effort to Find the Lost

Luke 15:4; Mark 10:45; Romans 5:6–8

- Jesus says, God goes looking for sinners. God will not stand in heaven and cross his arms and say, Well, they got themselves lost.
- God didn't commission human agents to go looking for sinners. God comes himself.
- The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.
- But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- Who would give the life of his only son for something as worthless as sinners? God did.

3 When You Find What's Been Lost, It Is a Thrill

Luke 15:5–7; Luke 15:20–24

- He looked at me with a little fear in his eyes.
- I wasn't angry. I was overjoyed to see my dogs again.
- When you find what's been lost, it is a thrill to your heart.
- He is angry at sin. He has every right to be big time angry. But Jesus is very clear in this parable that the story doesn't end with anger.

- And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.
- There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous persons who need no repentance.

4 To Think That God Feels About Me Like That

- I know how I feel about dogs, about all dogs. To think that God feels about me like that. That he loves me.
- It is stunning to know that I have fouled up miserably. That I have cost the Lord terribly. And yet he still rejoices.
- It changes how I think about God. I'll never be the same again.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Well, it's not finished, is it? It's an unfinished parable. Because you write the end of it. You get to decide how the parable ends.**

MY NOTES