

A. Introduction

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1. First I read a few verses from Luke, chapter 12,3-7:
2. After this story Jesus told another story. It's about a coin. I read verses 8-
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A. Introduction

1. Greetings in the name of our Lord and saviour from Germany
2. I want to share the gospel with you. It's a pleasure
3. A few years ago I buy a house. A very old house in Germany. In Germany we have the ability to build great and massive houses. I live there with my family. I have four children.
4. When I bought the house the former owner told me a story about his family and the house.
5. Back in the 19th century this house had a stable. Many people in Germany have stables in their houses these days. The people which are living in the house were workers. But they had their own cattle. This family had an oxen. An oxen was very valuable. You must raised an oxen and give him food. It's hard work and a long time and you need money to raise the oxen up.
6. Than you can sell the oxen to a butcher. The owner did it and got one gold coin for the oxen. A family must work an half year to earn such a amount of money.
7. I don't know the complete circumstances, but maybe the family sat in the kitchen and talked about the big amount which they get for the oxen. Everyone looked on the gold coin. Than the gold coin felt from the table and rolled to the floor.
8. The ground of the house was build up with planks of woods. And between every plank was a gap. And to the horror of the family the gold coin disappeared in such a split. It was horrible. The family become poor in this very moment.
9. They search after the gold coin. The lifted the planks and search everywhere. But they couldn't find the gold coin. It was a tragedy.
10. The people lived and died and a next generation comes. The story about the lost gold coin was now family history. In the 1960 they started to renovate the house completely. They build it bigger and build an half of house at the side. And than they decided to tore the old half of the house down, because they want to renew it too.
11. And suddenly someone saw a sparkle in the mud. It was the gold coin which was lost for generations. They don't need to sell the gold coin anymore. The mother get a chain and wear the gold coin around her neck.

B. God seeks you!

What a story! A sad and wonderful story at the same time. And it really happened. In my house in Germany. It's a story about losing and finding. And I'm here to share this story with you. But not only this story. I have an even better story for you. I have a

story from the bible about losing and finding. I believe the bible is the word of the living God. The living God talked with a man, his name was Abraham, a long time ago. Abraham was a man who believed in the living God, the creator of the earth and all the mankind. He told Abraham, that everyone, every nation will be blessed in him. We can read it in Genesis, chapter 12:2:

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Today I am here to bless the people of Yangon in Myanmar in the name of the Lord. God will bless you. The living God will search and find you. Because if you don't really know him, you are a lost man. And this makes him sad. The bible told us, the God will save every man and woman in the world. Let's read **John 3,16**.

God loves you and he sent his one and only son Jesus Christ on this earth. Jesus became poor, rose up, preached and brought the kingdom of heaven to the earth. He died for our sins and rose from the dead. He went to heaven and will come back again. And he will come back soon. And between his first coming and his second coming he told people to preach the gospel, the good news. God seeks you. You are lost, but he will find you.

C. Three awesome stories

And therefore people understand what God wants; Jesus told stories about the love of God. The stories were examples for the love of the living God. And people collect these stories and wrote the bible. So we can read the stories about the love of God 2000 years later all over the world, also in Thaketa.

1. First I read a few verses from Luke, chapter 12,3-7:

3 Then Jesus told them this parable:

4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?

5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders

6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'

7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

What does this story tell us? You and I, we are the lost sheep. But Jesus will find us. He seeks us. He is the good shepherd. He loves us. He sees our circumstances, our sin, our families and our wishes. He will find us and bring us back home, to him. And then he makes a party. And yea, we make a celebration today. We celebrate here at the church. We are happy to support this church in Thaketa with money from Germany. And we will be excited if you found the living God through this church. This is our aim.

2. After this story Jesus told another story. It's about a coin. I read verses 8-

8 "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins¹ and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?

9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.'

10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

This story is very similar to the story of my house. But she is better for the women, because she find the gold coin at the same day she had lost them. The woman in this story represents God. God seeks us. Everyone! We war a valuable gold coin and God will do everything to find you. He will lift all the planks. And when he finds you he

will call all the neighbours. He's totally excited about to find you and save you. This is great, isn't it? It shows his never ending love for you and me.

But do you want to be found.

On one hand there is god, the searcher. On the other hand there are you. Do you want to be found and do you want to believe in the living God? Do you want follow him. Do you want to be a sheep in his shepherd? Or a valuable gold coin in his hands?

3. Jesus told another story. It's about a son. The son first has to learn, that he needs his father. I read verses 11-32

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons.

12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.

16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!

18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.'

20 So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate.

24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.

26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.

27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.

29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.

30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!

31 " 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.

32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' "

Another crazy and wonderful story! A story about the love of a father.

The father in this story represents the living God. He is waiting for the lost son. He is waiting for everyone. We can see in the heart of God.

But it is also a story about the thinking of people. The lost son thought he have to do good works to impress his father.

Let's go a little bit deeper into the story. A rich man had to sons. The second son wanted to go away. It was boring on the farm. He wanted to have fun. He wanted to be free. And so he asked his father about his heir. This was not kind. But the father gave him his heir and so the son went away. The heart of the father was broken. And

we can imagine that he went everyday at the door and looked after his son, if he will come back.

But the son enjoyed his life. He played with his money. He ate and drunk. He went to the prostitutes. And then came a big crisis, a big depression. He lost all his money. There was no food anymore and he couldn't buy food, because he was out of money. It was horrible for him. He used to be a rich man. His father was rich. His brother was rich. And he became poor. He worked as a shepherd. A shepherd for the pigs. And maybe you know: This was a Jewish guy. Pigs were disgusting animals for Jews. Horrible situation. And then he began to think. He made a decision. He would go back to his father and would ask him, if he could be a worker on his farm. What did this guy? He thought, that he must do good works to impress his father.

Dear people here at the church. This is what most people think about God and their life after death. They think that they have to do good works. That they must impress someone. That they have to bring a sacrifice to someone. And then they hope, that someone will be gracious.

But Jesus tells us, that this is a wrong thinking. We can't do anything. Because we are weak people. We are sinners. The father did everything. Jesus did everything, because he died for us at the cross.

So the son went back at home. The father saw him. He ran to him. He hugged him. He didn't hear his suggestion to work for him. Instead he celebrated his return. He was so excited. Because he lost his son but now he found them. The son came back.

D. Conclusion and Call

We can learn three things from this story of Jesus:

- The first one is, that God is waiting for us. He lost us. But he will find us. He searches for us, waits for us. He is full of hope and he hopes that we will come back to him.
- The second thing is that we must come back. If we don't come back God can do nothing. If we are not willing to be found, he can't do anything. He doesn't force us.
- The third thing is that we have nothing to do. The only thing we have to do is to believe in the love of the father. God doesn't need our sacrifice, our money or our good works. He wants our love. And if we love him, we can do good things of love for God. But not to earn his love. Just to answer with works of love to his love.

Imagine! Somehow you have lost something valuable. And you won't give up the search.

Today I'm here to tell you, that God will find you. Today. Today is your chance to start a life with the living God.

Do you want to be found and do you want to believe in the living God? Do you want to follow him. Do you want to be a sheep in his shepherd? Or a valuable gold coin in his hands? Do you want to be his son, which came back?

Maybe you heard this the first time. Maybe you heard this before. Maybe you hear it after a long time? Maybe you hear it as the first member of your family. But now you have heard it. This is the day the Lord has made to find you!