



Sunday 2/11/2024 – Football Sunday

Have you ever given up on something or maybe someone? Why?

Maybe your team didn't make it to the big game today.

There is a lot of talk these days about people giving up on church, on Christianity.

The good news is God never gives up on us. And maybe if we really understood that a little better, we wouldn't be so quick to give up on Him and his church. Because the church is God's plan for our world right now! It is His chosen instrument to let the world know they matter to God.

Jesus often capitalized on current events to get His message across to the world. We want to have some fun today, but also use today to take a moment to get the message of Jesus out.

To do that I want to talk to you about tailgating in heaven.

There is a lot of bad information about God out there. That is some sort of cosmic kill joy, or that he is just waiting to stomp on us like some kind of bug for every little thing we do. If you take an honest look at the bible, which is where we get our info about God, you will discover a very different kind of God.

In fact, you will find a God who loves to tailgate!

A Guy name Luke, a doctor, wrote 2 books. He wrote them to a friend so they would have an accurate portrayal of who God is and to let him know he could trust him, and that he was a good God. He tells about Jesus telling 3 stories back-to-back in Luke 15, and in each story the same thing happens.

1st - Something of value ends up lost.

Shepherd has 100 sheep, and one goes missing.

And expensive coin goes missing.

A son decides to leave home prematurely.

2nd - There is an all-out search to find what was lost.

Shepherd leaves the 99 to go find the 1and doesn't return until he finds it.

Lady loses one of 10 silver coins, searches the house until she finds it.

A Father waits and watches every day for his son to come home.



3rd - When that which was lost is found there a huge tailgate party.

The shepherd calls his friends.

The woman calls her friends.

The father throws a big party.

In each case Jesus compares what happens in these situations to paint a picture of what happens on earth and in heaven. Let me explain.

The valuable thing that is lost, is you and me.

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... Romans 3:23 NIV

A search is made, God leaves heaven, Jesus arrives "I have come to seek and save the lost!"

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10 NIV

When we "get found", come home, all of heaven stops what they are doing to celebrate!

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. Luke 15:7 NIV

In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Luke 19:10 NIV

There is a banner in heaven with your name on it and all of heaven is throwing a tailgate party in your honor!