

EXTEND FAMILY 13.9.2020am

The theme of God's purposes for us as individuals and as His church are founded in His great love for all mankind and culminate in how we each facilitate His desire that not one be lost – in how we each facilitate that His family be extended.

Deuteronomy 30 – declares that we would choose life, choose blessing and in doing so we choose life and blessing for our family & our descendants. Loving God; loving people; becoming like Jesus; shaped to serve brings to evangelism or extending Family. The Great commandment, the great commission with the great promise that He will be with us always. This is revelation – as stated in Proverbs 29:18; as His people we have prophetic vision unfolding – God's desire, God's purposes revealed.

What can I do to facilitate the vision of God?

Luke 15 portrays the love of God perhaps like no other chapter.

Key verses: Luke 15:1-2 *“Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”*

It was the will of God for Jesus to die on our behalf; even death on a cross. It was the will of challenged men to kill Jesus – as evidenced in these two verses; because of His absolute and resolute for all mankind – no favourites; His desire to build Family. Acts 1:8 – the magnitude we are called to go to extend family; John 21 – feed, care, tend ‘sheep and lambs’ – no favourites. The Spirit of God has no favourites.

We, in the natural, are biased and often unintentional simply based on what we see. We are not to be ‘any longer’ conformed to the pattern of this world but be transformed – to love like Jesus. He was hated for the love He showed to those who were despised.

Tax collectors: why were they hated? Context Roman ruling having invaded the known world; invade by armies funded by taxes, collected often by the people's own countrymen – considered turncoats. Jesus was hated for eating with them.

Sinners: consider Romans 3:23.

Jesus was guilty in the Pharisees' and teachers' mind even though He is the only one ever who sinned not. Jesus was dealing with their bias: healing on the sabbath, who chose the best seats, ... who did He keep company with prior to Luke 15, Jesus ate with the Pharisees – He will eat with all: ‘whomsoever’.

He was dealing with their bias; He is dealing with ours.

See Good Samaritan account, Luke 10:25-37: old and new testament practice: Lev 19:33-34, Deut 14:28-29.

The Pharisees saw no reason for an intimate relationship with Christ; they had the Law and without the love of God, had bias.

What do I see when I see others? All lives matter. I am not better than my neighbour and Christ goes after the broken, those who don't yet know Him – through us.

God had purpose for each one – clearly defined. His plan, unique for each one, is the ‘how’ we each might accomplish the ongoing work of His love, that not one be lost.

We make a conscious choice not to be biased – and not matter why I think the way I do; the answer is always that God has no favourites. People may have wronged us – Jesus still invites, welcomes them. This is a refining work, of the Holy Spirit. **Extending family.**