

# That Which Was Lost

Lk. 19:10 "For the Son of man is come to seek and save that which was lost"

## I. A Lost Book – II Kings 22:8

- "I have found the book of the law." (II Ki. 22:8; Deut. 31:24)
- God's Book is lost to many today:
  - Through carelessness, neglect, indifference.
  - Because of false teachers. (II Pet. 1:20-21)
  - Because of human standards. (I Pet. 4:11; Col. 3:17)
  - Because of ignorance of its value. (Matt. 4:4; Eph. 6:10; Ps. 119:11; Acts 20:32)

## II. A Lost Savior– Lk. 2:44-46

- To many Jesus is lost today – His identity, mission, word...
- Some reasons:
  - Lack of knowledge. (Matt. 16:13ff)
  - Prejudice. (Matt. 13:11-15)
  - Fear. (Jn. 9:21-23; 12:42-43)
  - Misplaced priorities. (Matt. 19:22; 6:33)
  - Failure to obey. (Lk. 6:46)

## III. A Lost Opportunity – Lk. 16:19-31

- Opportunities lost by the rich man...
- Some of the saddest words: "if only", "I wish I had", "too late"
- Opportunity – "a combination of fit circumstances favorable for the purpose"
- What is our purpose?
  - Opportunities cannot be recalled.
  - Matt. 5:16; Jn. 4:31-38; 9:4; Eph. 5:16; Lk. 16:19-31
- Do we seize the opportunity to...
  - Study (II Tim. 2:15)
  - Pray (I Thess. 5:17)
  - Assemble with the saints (Heb. 10:24-25)
  - To encourage and comfort (I Thess. 5:14)
  - Defend the truth (Phil. 1:17)
  - To invite, teach (Jn. 1:41-45; Mk. 16:15)
- Obstacles:
  - Procrastination (Jn. 9:4)
  - Fear (Matt. 10:28)
  - Lack of preparation (I Pet. 3:15)

## IV. A Lost Soul... (Lk. 12:16-21)

- What it means...
  - Loss of most valuable aspect of one's being
    - ↻ Gen. 1:26-27; Matt. 16:26
  - Jesus died in vain with respect to you.
    - ↻ Matt. 26:28
    - ↻ God's love spurned. (Jn. 3:16; 14:15)
  - The worst punishment received. (Rom. 2:8-9)
  - The greatest reward missed. (Rev. 21:3-4)