

What Does It Mean To Be Lost ?

Text : **Ephesians 2: 1-12**

S#1.

A. Have you ever been lost ?

S#2.

1. The stereotype of men is that they'd rather wander around lost than get directions.
 - a. With technology being what it is, it is difficult to get totally lost on the road.
 - b. Now days one can even get GPS on some new cell phones.
2. My friend had the traumatic experience of being totally lost in mountains of Virginia.
 - a. He walked for hours and covered miles.
 - b. When night began to fall he became even more fearful until he saw a distant light.
 - c. Trauma: Though an experienced woodsman, he will still not go in the woods alone.

B. Being spiritually lost is a much more dangerous situation, but is not feared. **S#3.**

1. Many who are spiritually lost don't know that they are lost.

- a. There are religious people that worship God who are lost.

S#4.

Matt. 15: 9 – And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'

- 1) Worship is not about what the worshippers enjoy; it must please God.
- 2) God has set forth a pattern of doctrine and we must follow it.

- b. There are many people who are zealous for God, even preachers who are lost. **S#5.**

Matt. 7: 21-23 **Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. ²² Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophecy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles? ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'** **S#6.**

2. Today in America not many will admit to being lost.

- a. I'm a good person; I do a lot of good things.
- b. I'm a good wife, father, child, neighbor.
- c. I'm a good citizen; I work hard pay my taxes and I'm patriotic.

**** All these things and more may be true, but still leave them lost.***

C. Sadly, many people just will not deal with their relationship with God. **S#7.**

1. There are people who will not go to the doctor when they're sick because they're afraid he will give them bad news. ***What if it's cancer ?***

2. It's like death ... everyone is going to experience it, but very few people like to talk about his own death.
3. Eventually, everyone will have to deal with their relationship with God.
 - a. **Heb. 9:27** – it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, **S#8.**
 - b. **II Cor. 5: 10** – For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
4. Therefore we do no one a favor by not bringing up the subject.

D. “Lost” is not a derogatory term; it is a descriptive term.

S#9.

1. It describes one who has no positive relationship with God.
 - a. Lost : (*apollumi*) 1A to put out of the way entirely, abolish, put an end to ruin.
 - b. One whose relationship to God is described as “lost” is rejected by God.
 - c. It is comparable to one being banished by his king. (*Moses after slaying ...*)
2. **II Tim. 3: 15**– the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ J
 - a. Not all Americans are Christians.
 - b. Thus, not all Americans are saved.
 - c. Those who are not saved are lost.

There are very serious ramifications to being “lost.”

I. To be lost is to live without life.

S#10.

- A. Those outside of Christ exist, but they have no spiritual life ... zombies.** **#11.**
1. **Eph. 2: 1** – And you were dead in your trespasses and sins
 2. **Rom. 6: 23** – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life...
 3. The moment you committed that first sin you became a spiritual “zombie.”
 - a. Your physical body walks on the earth, but the Spirit of God is not in it.
 - b. It is the indwelling of the Spirit that gives you spiritual life. (cf .. **Jas. 2:26**)

B. This was the lesson of the garden of Eden.

S#12.

1. **Gen. 2: 16-17** The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; **17** but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”
2. On the day that they sinned, they died spiritually, but their bodies lived on.
3. **Gen. 5: 5** ... So all the days that Adam lived were 930 and he died.

C. Jesus came to earth so that he could restore life to fallen man.**S#13.**

1. **John 10: 10–11** The thief (*Satan*) comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. **11** I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.
2. **John 3** ... Jesus told Nicodemus that he had to receive NEW LIFE ... be born again.
3. Jesus left Heaven and came to earth to proactively seek those who are lost to Him.
 - a. **Luke 19: 10** – For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.
 - b. He said this while at the table of a lost man.
4. Jesus provides a source of regenerative life for those who are spiritually dead. **S#14.**
John 14: 6 – Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. (*Jesus supplies way, truth, life*)

II. To be lost is to see without seeing.**S#15.****A. Those without Christ are groping in the dark unable to truly see.**

1. They seek : peace, lasting happiness, contentment but find none.
2. They can find no lasting satisfaction ... after each high the emptiness returns.
3. They know they are unfulfilled, but don't know why.

* *It is because they are without God ... Eph. 2:12.*

B. Even when the gospel is right in front of them, they cannot see it.**S#16.**

1. **II Cor. 4: 3-4** And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, **4** in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
 - a. Satan acts on the hearts of the unbelieving.
 - b. When this occurs, one will not receive the gospel message.
2. One's heart is affected by the life-choices he makes. **S#17.**
 - a. **Matt. 13: 13** – Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.
 - b. Jesus altered His teaching style (*parables*) to communicate to them.

III. Lost people accumulate knowledge without understanding.**S#18.**

- A. **Matt. 13: 14** – In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, **S#19.**
'You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; You will keep on seeing, but will not perceive;

B. Many approach the scriptures as an academic study and miss the message. S#20.

1. Courses in secular colleges :
 - a. The bible as literature.
 - b. The bible as history.
2. In order for someone to accept spiritual teachings he must become open to it. S#21.
 - a. **I Cor. 2: 14** – But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.
 - b. Thus, to convert the unspiritual, one must start slowly with digestible bites.
 - c. The key to teaching is to start where the student is and build him from there. S#22.
John 16: 12– I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

C. The story we know as “The Rich Young Ruler” is an example. (Lk 18:18-30)

1. The young man was looking for a way to earn meritorious favor with God.
2. He left sad when told to divest himself of his great wealth.
3. He was taught salvation by grace through faith, but all he saw was lost money.

IV. To be lost is to die without hope.**S#23.****A. Jude describes those who deny Christ and sinful Christians as hopelessly lost.**

1. **Jude 13b** – ... for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever. S#24.
2. Imagine being in total darkness forever and ever.
 - a. Will have a body with all its senses ... hear the screams, feel the pain, etc.
 - b. One of the plagues of Egypt was darkness.

B. The gates of Hell only swing one way.**S#25.**

1. **Luke 16** ... The rich man regretted his life but could not escape.
 - a. No one could come to his aid.
 - b. He could not warn his family.
 - c. He had no hope of relief. (*Couldn't even commit suicide*)
2. The lost person has no anticipation of a brighter tomorrow.
 - a. Each day will be as horrible as the one before.
 - b. There will be no pity, no words of comfort, no kind words, no rest.
 - c. It will go on and on forever with no hope of rescue or relief ... *only justice*.

C. Jesus is proof that God does not want people to be lost.**S#26.**

1. Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels. **Matt. 25: 41**
2. God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. **S#27.**
Ezek. 33: 11 – Say to them, ‘As I live!’ declares the Lord God, ‘I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways!’
3. God so loves mankind that He gave His Only Begotten Son to save us from sin. **S#28.**
I John 4: 9 – By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him.
4. God assigned us to spread the news of the salvation He provided. **Mark 16:16**

V. To be lost is to face judgment without an advocate.**S#29.****A. Old saying : “The man who defends himself has a fool for a client.”**

1. We provide public defenders to those who cannot afford an advocate.
2. In judgment the lost will stand before God with no advocate.

B. We all have two appointments that we cannot avoid. ... *Be there & on time.* **S#30.**

1. Death and the Judgment.
Heb. 9: 27 – ... it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,
2. When we appear before God the book of our life will be opened. **S#31.**
 - a. **Rev. 20: 12** – And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds
 - b. Every deed and every word is recorded. (*The will ne NO harddrive crash.*)
3. We will all face perfect justice for every offense. *The lost stand alone.*
 - a. There will be no way to influence the judge.
 - b. Power, status, wealth, fame, accomplishments ... all mean nothing.

C. The Christian will have an advocate to plead his case before God.**S#32.**

1. **I John 2: 1-2** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; **2** and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.
 - a. Jesus Christ will personally advocate for those who are IN Him.
 - b. Jesus Christ personally paid the penalty for the sins of Christians.

2. ***YOU ARE GUILTY !*** Every person who appears before God will be guilty. **S#33.**
 - a. **Rom. 3: 10, 23** ... There is not one righteous person on the earth; **all sin.**
 - b. **Rom. 6: 23** ... All who sin deserve death.
 - c. *If justice is administered, every person has and does deserve death.*
3. Only the Christian has a advocate who has already paid his penalty.

VI. To be lost is to experience an eternal existence without God.

S#34.

A. God is holy and pure so He will not dwell with sin.

1. He has gone to great lengths to provide cleansing for all mankind, yet men reject it.
2. How would you feel if your son died to gain a gift for someone and then they refused the gift he died to obtain ?
3. The Son of God died to make salvation available to all mankind.

B. People who are outside of Christ are lost ... separated from God.

S#35.

1. **Eph. 2: 12** – Remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
2. One who is excluded from fellowship with God in life will be excluded eternally.

C. At death all who are outside of Christ at will be separated from God forever. #36.

1. **II Thes. 1: 9** – These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,
2. The King of Heaven will banish all who have not been prepared for citizenship.
3. God is the source of all good; imagine total separation from Him .. eternally. **S#37.**
James 1: 17 – Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights,

CONCLUSION :

S#38.

Are you lost ? If so, your eternity is bleak ?

1. You are existing, but have no spiritual life.
2. You see, but you have no site.
3. You gain knowledge, but have no discernment.
4. You will dies without hope.
5. You will stand before God alone with no advocate.
6. You will exist eternally outside the presence of God.

S#39.

Lesson Text :**Ephesians 2: 1-12**

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, **2** in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. **3** Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. **4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **6** and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; **9** not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” *which is* performed in the flesh by human hands — **12** *remember* that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.