

Sermon Outline: Run to the Lost

Series: The Formation Code (Part 3) **Scripture Focus:** Luke 15; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4; Matthew 28:19–20

I. Defining Evangelism: What it is and is Not

- **The "Boogeyman" of Faith:** Many believers view evangelism with fear or avoidance, yet it is the heart of God.
- **What Evangelism is NOT:** It is not merely praying for unbelievers, having spiritual conversations without gospel content, doing mercy ministry, or simply saying "Jesus loves you".
- **What Evangelism IS:** "Teaching the gospel with the aim to persuade". It is the **"dirty work of the kingdom"**—the essential task that is often neglected.
- **The Prerequisite:** To evangelize, you must first **preach the gospel to yourself** every day and be washed in its truth.

II. The Progression of the Lost (Luke 15)

- **The Lost Sheep:** A 1% loss; the shepherd leaves the 99 to find the one.
- **The Lost Coin:** A 10% loss; the woman searches the house diligently.
- **The Lost Son (Prodigal):** A 50% loss; the intensity grows as Jesus exposes the hearts of the Pharisees.
- **The Two Sons:**
 - **The Younger Brother:** Represents those far from God (Gentiles, sinners) who eventually come to their senses and return in humility.
 - **The Older Brother:** Represents those in the house (Pharisees) who are **near to God but spiritually far from His heart**, characterized by resistance and self-righteousness.

III. The Heart vs. The House

- **The Subtitle:** "Loving the Father's house but missing the Father's heart".
- **The Danger of Comfort:** It is possible to enjoy the worship, preaching, and community of the "house" while neglecting the Father's mission to **seek and save the lost**.
- **The Necessity of Repentance:** Repentance is not just for those outside the house; those inside must repent for **resisting the mission of evangelism**.

IV. The Map for Reaching the Lost (Luke 15:20)

The Father's response to the returning son provides a "map" for how we approach unbelievers:

1. **See:** We must have our eyes open to recognize the **spiritual lostness** and "godless eternity" facing those around us.

2. **Feel Compassion:** Defined as "the distress of one's inner person due to the suffering of another that leads to **outward action**".
3. **Run:** We must move with **intentionality and urgency**, regardless of social norms or personal dignity.
4. **Embrace:** We must receive people in their brokenness and depravity without shying away.
5. **Kiss:** We must be **affectionate, tender-hearted, and patient** rather than harsh or judgmental.

V. Overcoming Barriers to the Mission

- **Self-Righteousness:** Thinking some people are "unworthy" of salvation or deserving only of judgment.
- **Fear:** Being afraid of fumbling words or facing rejection; we must care more about their **eternal destination** than our own comfort.
- **Defiance:** Flatly refusing to share the gospel, which reveals a lack of love for unbelievers.
- **Waiting for "Promptings":** We do not wait for a special prompting to pray or read scripture; we should not use it as an excuse to avoid the command to "Go".
- **Lack of "Giftedness":** Evangelism should be a **conviction**, not just a spiritual gift.

Congregational Worksheet: Run to the Lost

1. **Defining the Mission** The sermon defines evangelism as "teaching the gospel with the aim to _____".

- *Why is "mercy ministry" (like feeding the homeless) or "spiritual talk" not enough to be considered evangelism according to this definition?*
- _____

2. **The "Older Brother" Reflection** The elder brother was in the house but "refused to go in" to celebrate his brother's return.

- *In what ways have you been "in the house" (enjoying church) but "missing the Father's heart" for the lost?*
- _____

3. **Word Study: Compassion** In the sermon, compassion is defined as distress that leads to _____. It is noted that unlike sympathy, compassion always comes with a _____ (using the example of Jesus).

- *Who is one person in your life that you feel this "inner distress" for regarding their salvation?*
- _____

4. Identifying Your "What ifs" The speaker mentions that fear often stops us from engaging with "unheard ears".

- *Check the "What ifs" that most frequently stop you:*
 - [] "What if I don't say the right thing?"
 - [] "What if I'm rejected or cursed out?"
 - [] "What if I misrepresent Christ?"
- *How does the reality of an "eternal destination" help you walk through these fears?*
- _____

5. Taking Action: The 2026 Commitment The sermon emphasizes that we have "more than enough" to share the gospel: the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit, and our own

- *What is one specific step you will take this month to move from "the house" to "the mission" (e.g., joining the laundry mat outreach or starting a gospel conversation with a neighbor)?*
- _____

Key Memory Verse: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."* — **Matthew 28:19–20**