

“GOD CAN” (Part 2)

“ . . . Save the Lost ”

INTRO: Praise song, “Our God is an awesome God. . . “One reason He is awesome is He is infinitely powerful. Our God CAN! He is El Shaddai, God Almighty (Gen. 18:14; Jer. 32: 17, 27; Matt. 19:26; 22:29). So many evidences of His great power (Creator – Col. 1:16-17, Sustainer – Heb. 1:2, miracles, etc.). Plus, many individual examples... It is so important in our journey with God to believe that He can do anything – nothing is too hard for Him. Fosters: faith, confidence, humility, dependence, hope, worship. How and where does the fact that “God can” intersect our lives? Where does our frail humanity meet God’s infinite ability? First and foremost, at the point of our greatest need.

TODAY: God Can Save the Lost. He can forgive any and all sins and welcome anyone into His forever family. “Who has an unsaved family member or friend you’ve prayed for over a long time?” (Col. 4:2-6) Easy to get discouraged.

AGE OLD QUESTION: “How is it possible for fallen and sinful people to enter into a relationship with a holy and righteous God?” (Job 9:2; Matt. 19:16; Lk. 10:25; 16:30). Truth: God save anyone and everyone (Heb. 7:25; Rom. 10:13). None beyond His grace. Four truths concerning God can save the lost.

I. PEOPLE WITHOUT CHRIST ARE LOST (Lk. 15)

A. Lost for Different Reasons – All lost but valuable. “Lost” (6xs)

1. Sheep (vv. 3-7) – just indifferent; lost by *nature*, as are we. Sinners by birth and choice (Psa. 51:5; 58:3; Isa. 48:1; 53:6). Response was to search for.
2. Coin (vv. 8-10) – by *ignorance*; didn’t know it was lost, as is so of so many - clueless of their need. Response was to search for.
3. Son (vv. 11-24) – by *choice* (Rom. 3:23; Isa. 53:6). Response was to wait. He went home when a crisis helped him remember his father’s goodness.

B. Jesus came to seek and save the lost (Lk. 19:10; 15:4, 8). Some more lost than others (PPT slide of Lost diagram). 8 billion on earth (70% lost). He searches for them through leading us. Result? rejoicing!

II. SAVING LOST PEOPLE IS ONE OF THE GREATEST DISPLAYS OF HIS POWER. How so? Saving the lost is hard and

an even greater display of power than creation. In creation, He had no resistance or opposition. But in salvation there is a battle with both Satan and sinner. Satan blinds (2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2), deceives (2 Cor. 11:3), lies (Jn. 8:44). Sinners resist (Lk. 13:22ff). Hard to face your sin and repent. Only resurrection is greater display of His power. It is the foundation of our faith in Christ (Rom. 10:9-10).

III. GOD MADE SALVATION AVAILABLE ONLY IN CHRIST.

ILLUS: 4 ways to heaven – die as infant, be translated (Enoch, Elijah), live a perfect life, God’s way through Christ.

God can save the lost because He paid the way through Christ. It’s why He came (Lk. 19:10). He is only way (Jn. 10:9-10; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Rom. 6:23; 1 Tim. 2:5; Eph. 2:8-9). What a gift!

John 1:12-13 - Salvation is NOT of:

- blood (don’t inherit it) – not by human descent, not saved in families
- will of the flesh (won’t seek it) – not by human desire, too fallen
- will of man (can’t earn it) – not by human design, no way to be good enough

Salvation IS “of God”! Something only God provides through the person and work of Christ when we believe (v. 12; Eph. 2:8-9). Salvation is received not achieved – can’t earn or deserve it. BARNA(52%)...

IV. NO ONE IS BEYOND HIS POWER TO SAVE (Rom. 10:13).

“Who has a lost relative or friend?” Moses was a murderer. Abraham was a liar. Samson was immoral. Paul was a blasphemer and murderer (Acts 8:3; 1 Tim. 1:13-15). But you must see your need and repent (Isa. 59:1-2). He can if we will.

CONC: God wants to save the lost (2 Pet. 3:9). He can do so.

Repeat Eph. 3:20 together. . . “God Can” (3x).