

“Jesus Changes Lives”

Luke chapter 15

Tuesday Bible Lunch

September 25, 2018

Introduction: Luke chapter fifteen is one of the best-known chapters in the New Testament. It contains three parables that Jesus told.

1. The parable of the lost coin (15:1-7)
2. The parable of the lost coin (15:8-10)
3. The parable of the lost son (15:11-22)

It is important to ask why Jesus told these parables. Scripture makes clear that the reason Jesus told these parables was in response to the complaint of the Pharisees and Scribes (15:1-2).

Jesus came into the world to change people’s lives. Jesus previously had made that clear to the Pharisees and the scribes. We read it in Matthew, Mark and Luke (Matthew 9:12; Mark 2:17, Luke 5:27-32).

I thought about this last Friday while visiting Alcatraz.

- Alcatraz, called the “Rock” was first used as a military prison for soldiers convicted of desertion, theft, assault, rape and murder.
- In 1930 the Bureau of Prisons used Alcatraz as a maximum-security facility.
- In 1934 Alcatraz was opened as a Federal penitentiary.
- There were 14 attempted escapes from Alcatraz, but only one was successful. In June 1962, Frank Morris and his brothers John and Clarence Anglin escaped. (They were never found—perhaps drowned.)
- After their escape, visitors to Alcatraz was restricted.

- Increasing Maintenance and operating costs led Attorney General Robert Kennedy to order Alcatraz closed in 1963.
- In 1972 Congress made Alcatraz a National park.

Alcatraz was about punishment not rehabilitation. That was probably why Kennedy closed Alcatraz. In all honesty, I do not believe Alcatraz was closed to save the government money. The government does not care what something cost. I believe Robert Kennedy saw that changing lives was not happening in Alcatraz.

Conclusion: When I see things that are done to help people, what I most often see is little if anything being done to change lives and situations. We should feed the hungry and help those with basic needs, but we should add to that the need souls have. I have a burden and conviction about this that I share briefly. (To hear the burden and conviction listen to the message on the church web page www.fbp.org.)