

## HUMANITY'S FOUR GREATEST LOSSES

Basis= Luke 19:10

### INTRO:

A. Certainly we have all experienced feelings of futility, frustration, grief over material losses.

B. Yet, every day that of far greater value is lost.

(1) Four of the greatest losses among humanity:

### I. THE LOST BOOK:

A. 2 Kings 22:8 Hilkiyah said, "I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord."

(1) Some feel this was the original manuscript of Moses.

(2) Probably a copy laid up in the most holy place according to Moses' command. Deut. 31:24

(3) The real question is, "Why was it missing?"

-- Carelessly mislaid and neglected.

-- Maliciously concealed by some idolatrous king or his agent.

-- Carefully laid up by some of its friends to prevent it from falling into the hands of the enemies.

-- Abandoned during the backslidden condition of the Jews.

-- THE RESULT WAS a great religious reformation under Josiah.

(4) How tragic to think that God's people had lost "THE BOOK".

B. God's word is lost to many today.

(1) Not visibly but practically.

(2) God's Word is so great.

-- Power to save = Rom. 1:16; Jas 1:21

-- Prevention against sin. Ps. 119:9,11

-- Direction = Ps 119:105

-- Should meditate upon it = Ps. 1:1f

-- Totally furnishes man = 2 Tim. 3:16

### II. THE LOST CHRIST:

A. Luke 2:41-52 The Story of the Lost Boy.

(1) Jesus was 12

(2) It was the Feast of Passover - lasted 7 days.

(3) After a day's journey parents missed him.

(4) He was found the 3rd day in the temple.

B. Christ can still be lost today.

(1) By misunderstanding and ignorance.

-- Hosea 4:6

-- 2 Tim. 2:15 = lack of study.

(2) By sin and rebellion. John 8:21

- C. The great news is Christ can be found.
  - (1) By Seeking
  - (2) By surrender

### III. THE LOST OPPORTUNITY:

- A. Luke 16:19-31 The Rich Man lost much opportunity.
  - (1) For the Bible declares, to him that hath much more is required.
  - (2) He could have ministered to the beggar.
  - (3) He could have been a faithful child of God.
  - (4) He could have blessed the cause of God.
  - (5) But now his position is REVERSED.
    - The Rich Man is now the beggar.
    - Lazarus is now rich.
- B. What are we doing with our opportunities. They too can be lost for ever.
  - (1) We have two great realms of opportunity:
    - To serve God = Acts 24:25; 26:27,28
    - To serve others = Gal. 6:10, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

### IV. THE LOST SOUL:

- A. The story of the rich farmer who lost his soul is one of great seriousness. Lk. 12:16 -21
  - (1) This is the greatest of all losses.
  - (2) Note this, it is surely to result by the loss of any of the other three things we have mentioned.
    - Mat. 16:26, "...what shall a man give in exchange for his soul."
    - No kind of "reward" could be given God.
- B. Sadly, it can be lost by doing nothing.

### CONCLUSION:

- A. When the lost book is found you have the key to knowledge and revival.
- B. When the lost Christ is found you have found a savior.
- C. When the lost opportunity is found you have found happy employment.
- D. When the lost soul is found you have found the eternal home.