Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? (Luke 15:1-4)

The “right” and “wrong” way to be a friend of sinners

When the Pharisees called Jesus a “friend of sinners”, it was not a title of affection. It was a title of scorn and accusation. The Pharisees believed that Jesus’ attention toward and interaction with sinners was one of which to be ashamed. Yet, when Jesus was accused of the title, He never denied it. Instead, throughout the Gospels, Jesus aimed to change the Pharisees’ perception of what it meant to be a “friend of sinners”. Jesus knew that in the Pharisees’ minds, they had constructed a calloused and judgmental view of being engaged with sinful people. So, He made it His goal to correct their perceptions. Today, we too struggle with this same issue. May this sermon point us back to the right view of being a friend of sinners.

Comparing the heart behind the Pharisees' and Jesus' view

Pharisees:
- Keep your sin away from me.
- Your sin is worse than mine.
- Your sin is the final say.

Followers of Jesus:
- Your sin reminds me that you need care.
- Your sin reminds me I too am imperfect.
- Your sin is where God’s salvation begins.

Practices and Habits
- Keep the right Jesus in your heart and mind.
- Pray for “lost sheep”.
- Engage life with "lost sheep".
- Love “lost sheep” with the love of Jesus.

See page 2 for more notes and bulletin announcements.
Reflection Questions

Why do you have such a hard time loving sinful people?

Do you think that your poor reactions to sinful people is how Jesus walked with sinners in scripture?

What’s happening with the Lighthouse family...

Because relationship with one another is at the core of being a disciple of Christ, we invite you to find community and experience spiritual transformation through LCC’s groups, classes, events, and service opportunities.

Family Worship: Starting this weekend through September 3-4, our families will worship together in the sanctuary. Kiddos four years and up will attend family-friendly services with their parents. Our nursery and classes through three years of age will remain open. Visit www.lighthousehome.org/km2 for more details.

Local Outreach Ministry Fair: Did you know that Lighthouse partners with over 10 Christian organizations in Pierce county in order to bring the Gospel through love in action? We’re excited to let you know that on Saturday, August 13 and Sunday, August 14 we will be hosting a local Ministry Fair! Our partners will be here for that weekend so that YOU and your family can come and learn more about their ministry. But more importantly, it’s a chance for you and your family to find your place to serve! Visit www.lighthousehome.org/outreach for all the details and to register for this event.

Sing-Spiration: All adults 55+ are invited to a special lunch and time of singing God’s praises together starting at noon on Thursday, August 18. Bring your own brown bag lunch. Coffee and dessert provided! Get more info and sign up at www.lighthousehome.org/lcc-seniors.