

## Lost & Found

Recently at a garage sale, a very worried father was frantically looking for his daughters. It seemed they were with their babysitter and had gone out for a short walk. This father had several reasons for concern. First, the short walk had turned in to well over an hour. Next, the father said that the babysitter had a cell phone, but apparently it wasn't working properly. And then, he reported that he had three daughters – all very young.

Unbeknownst to this father, a few conditions were working in his favor. First, this garage sale was one of several sales in a subdivision. Next, as he went from one garage sale to the next asking if anyone had seen them, word of his missing daughters spread very quickly. Many people – both shoppers and sellers, were on the look-out and started spreading the word for others to be on the look-out as well. And then some of those people became concerned enough to stop what they were doing and go help the father who was searching for his daughters.

Fortunately, this story has a very happy ending and the father found his lost daughters. Of course, there was much joy for both: father and daughters. And again, as the four were reunited, word quickly spread through the subdivision that those who were lost had been found. There was much rejoicing in the subdivision on behalf of the father and his daughters.

Reflecting on this story, a few things come to mind. First, there are many people around us who are lost. Lost, as in destined for an eternity apart from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Are we concerned enough for others that we would go out looking for them? Do we have enough compassion for them that we stop what we are doing and go in search of them? We represent our Heavenly Father and Luke 19:10 says: *“For the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost.”* Next, the babysitter's cell phone wasn't working properly, therefore communication to and from the father was obstructed. We need to be assured that the communication line to our Heavenly Father is always open. Always. There is never ever a time when He does not hear us. God's Word promises that He always hears us when we cry out to Him. Read 1 John 5:15 and 1 Peter 3:12. And in Jeremiah 29:12-13 God says specifically, *“I will listen to you.”*

And then, the frantic father's three daughters were very young. Hence the reminder that we all need Jesus regardless of our age. The very young and the very old need Jesus. The teenagers and the middle-aged need Jesus. John 3:16 reminds us that God so loved and Jesus died for the world. And the world is every single one of us, regardless of our age.

This true story can serve as an important reminder to each of us, that God doesn't ever lose track of where we are or who we are with. We can rest assured that our Heavenly Father always sees us, always hears us, always loves us. Always. This is good news! And good news travels fast!!

In Him,

The Christian Center Staff