

# The Savior of Sinners

“I’ll Be Home For Christmas” Part 1

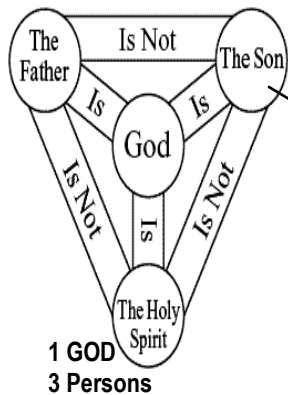
Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 15:1-32

## I. Introduction

- A. It’s Christmas time!
- B. We have a new sermon series for Christmas (“I’ll Be Home for Christmas”)

## II. God goes to sinners with His love (Matt.1 and Lk.15).

### A. The Conception and Birth of Jesus (Matt 1:18-25)



1. God (Father, Son, Spirit) literally conceives a plan for sinners.
2. Through the virgin conception, the Son becomes Jesus to bring salvation to sinners.
3. Jesus is Immanuel (“God with us”), the only hope for sinners (cf.2Cor.5:19).

### B. The ministry and teaching of Jesus (Luke 15:1-32)

1. Sinners come near to Jesus.
2. Spiritual people reject Jesus.
3. Jesus gives parables to show His love for sinners.

## III. Conclusion

- A. Do sinners find their way home through our lives and in our church?
- B. With the gospel there is always a way home for sinners.
- C. We worship a God who graciously initiates relationships with sinners.

## Home Fellowship Questions

Icebreaker: What was your most memorable or favorite Christmas gift as a kid? Discuss.

1. On Sunday we studied Matthew 1:18-25. Together as a group, read the entire chapter.
2. Having read all of Matthew 1, what is the significance of the genealogy in verse 1 thru 17? Please consult your study Bibles for assistance.
3. With the genealogy of Jesus from Matthew in mind (see question 2), go read the genealogy of Jesus in Luke’s gospel (Luke 3:23-38). After reading this genealogy compare it with Matthew. What is the significance of Luke’s genealogy of Jesus?
4. Read Mark 2:15-17 and compare it with what we read in Luke 15. Discuss the scandal of Jesus’ friendship with sinners and how the spiritual/religious crowd used this against Him. Discuss Jesus’ retort to their attack.
5. As Christians we are called to be like Christ. Christ was a friend of sinners. How are you like Christ in this regard? Do you have more Christian friends than non-Christian friends? How deep are your non-Christian friendships? Do you ever worry what your Christian friends may think of them?
6. In our study on Sunday we learned about Jesus’ love for sinners and how He was a friend of sinners. On the other hand, Hebrew 7:26 says that Jesus was “separated from sinners”. How do we reconcile the fact that Jesus was separated from and yet a friend of sinners? Furthermore, how do we navigate this balance in our lives as we seek to be friends of sinners and yet not be influenced negatively by them? Who or what is your greatest negative influence in this regard and how do you safeguard yourself from unrighteousness as you live out your commitment to Christ among the lost?