Are the lost REALLY lost?

Who are the 'lost'

In Ezekiel: God's people gone astray

In Luke: The son who has rejected his father

The problem that this creates: insider/outsider language

We can create an unhelpful (and unbiblical) barrier between those who

'belong' and those who don't.

In one sense, the lost and the saved are no different

Coins, sheep, sons... they're all the same

'ontologically' (in their substance) they're the same

But in another sense, they're in completely different circumstances

The coin, the sheep, and the son in danger.

'functionally' (in what's happening) they're different

So are the lost really lost?

more importantly, how do we respond?