

Title: God's Lost and Found (Parable of the Lost Sheep)

Scripture: Luke 15:1-7

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Luke 15:1-7 / King James Version (KJV)

Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him.

² *And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.*

³ *And he spake this parable unto them, saying,*

⁴ *What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?*

⁵ *And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.*

⁶ *And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.*

⁷ *I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.*

Jesus always finds a way to get personal with you...

1. The Shepherd's Sorrow:

- a. He had to pay a price for his sheep (I Corinthians 6:20). Christ paid a price for us with his life. The shepherd had a prized possession. The one sheep that got lost might not have been special or different, but he treated it as if it was.

2. The Shepherd's Search:

- a. His motive for finding the sheep wasn't out of anger or spite. It was out of love. All of the sheep were important. In our darkest times, God looks for us. God's word can help us stay close to him. Christ didn't die out of God's anger, he died because of the love for us. The sheep was defenseless out in the wilderness. It needed protection (John 6:44). The shepherd always goes looking for his lost sheep before the sheep tries to come home. When we are lost, Christ comes to find us. The search for the sheep was continuous. The shepherd didn't give up (Revelation 3:20).

3. The Shepherd's Success:

- a. The shepherd searched until he found the sheep. After finding the sheep, the shepherd holds the sheep and lifts up the sheep. When the sheep has a response to the shepherd, he reaches down to rescue the sheep and saves him (Romans 5:9). The shepherd then puts the sheep on his shoulders and carries him home. It doesn't get home itself.

4. The Shepherd's Rejoicing:

- a. What makes you happy? Christ doesn't rejoice over our material gains. He rejoices over us and the lost coming to him. He rejoices over finding things. Although our emotions switch, we should constantly be glad that *he found us*.