

ALL THE PARABLES OF JESUS

A SYSTEMATIC SERIES

UNVEILING GODS ETERNAL TRUTH IN THE PARABOLIC TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP”

ALL THE PARABLES OF JESUS UNVEILED

Parable #13 - - Part 3

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Repentance, Salvation, God’s Faithfulness, Sheep

Luke 15:1-7

It’s One of the Most Beloved Parables of Jesus.

And rightfully so. It was spoken in an electrically charged atmosphere. The religious scribes and the professional Pharisees were seeking to capture Jesus in something by which they could condemn him to death.

Luke 15:1-3

Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. ² And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, “**This Man receives sinners and eats with them.**” ³ So He (Jesus) spoke this parable to them, saying:

Luke 15:4-7

⁴ “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, **rejoicing.** ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, “**Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!**” ⁷ I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who **repents** than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

1.) We are God’s concern

v.4

Sheep are Interesting Animals.

The first thing to grasp is the significance of the fact that our Lord chose a sheep and not a pig, cow, or dog. *And it was a lost sheep!*

Sheep do not leave or run away.

You will never see a sheep run from his peeps or his shepherd. Sheep wander, roam and drift away slowly.

Sheep are not known for being smart.

When they become startled, they quickly become overwhelmed and when they are overwhelmed, they tend to just fold & collapse under pressure. Its then the enemy simply begins to slowly tear them apart. A foot, an ear, a leg, until it's eventually consumed.

Sheep have no defenses, no claws or fangs, no mean bite.
(In Fact, They Cannot Live Without Human Care)

The Existence of Sheep Defy Evolution.

As we humans are 100% dependent upon God, so a sheep is 100% dependent upon the human for survival.

Now I know a little bit about sheep. When I worked for a medical research group, a global corporation – we developed critical care devices and some of those inventions required “live studies” or “animal studies” – and we would have to use sheep. The physiology of sheep in many ways resembles that of a human being.

**Sheep do not eat right when they are alone & isolated
Sheep Must Be Tended To**

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

2.) We are God’s desire

v.5-6

WE ARE GOD’S DESIRE

2a.) His desire for us is union with Him

v.5

And when he has found it, he lays it **on his shoulders**, rejoicing.

John 17:20-23

“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Why would He risk the recovery effort?

Why would He lay the lil’ rascal on His shoulders?

Why would He rejoice?

WE ARE GOD’S DESIRE

2b.) His desire for us is joy thru Him

v.6a

And when he comes home, he calls together **his friends and neighbors**, saying to them,

“Rejoice with me”

Being around Jesus had to be an amazing thing. And when we consider Heaven – it’s a place of great joy!!!

Psalm 16:11

You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

What do we know about this parable? That the shepherd will come after that one lost lamb and that the lost one is most pressing upon His heart and mind.

Jeremiah 31:3b

I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

John 15:9-11

“As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

WE ARE GOD’S DESIRE

2c.) His desire for us is security in Him

v.6b

For I have found my sheep which was lost!

There is no place on earth that you can go to escape His love.

John 10:1-5

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ And **when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.** ⁵ Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

John 10:7-10

Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **I am the door of the sheep.** ⁸ All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹ **I am the door.** If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

John 10:11-18

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ¹² But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. ¹⁴ **I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.** ¹⁵ As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and **I lay down My life for the sheep.** ¹⁶ And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ “Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.”

John 10:27-30

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and **they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.** ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of **My Father’s hand.** ³⁰ I and My Father are one.”

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

3.) We are God’s aim

v.7

WE ARE GOD’S AIM

3a.) His aim is to have you return

v.7a

I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who **repents** than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

Repentance leads to returning

Galatians 6:1-2

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. ² Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

3b.) His aim is to have you rejoice

v.7b

Repentance leads to rejoicing

I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who **repents** than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

***I will not believe that earth can out-do heaven in anything wonderful and good.
Imagine what a heavenly party looks like!***

3c.) His aim is to have you repent

v.7c

Repentance leads to Repenting

I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who **repents** than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

(These) the 99 just persons who need no repentance.

The 99's

These are the ones who are His faithful followers. (The Christian walking close to their shepherd)

1 John 1:5-10

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Matthew 11:28-30

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

John 6:37-38

All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

Sheep Wander Away- Aimlessly
(Not knowing they are wandering off in pursuit)

We Are Like This
We Can Wander Away - Aimlessly
(Not knowing that we're wandering off in pursuit of) food, clothing, riches, status, power, influence

Sheep are Best when they are Where They Belong

Sheep look good on a green hillside. They look good dotting a meadow or field. Sheep look good resting near the shepherd.

We Can Wander Away - Aimlessly - When we have all that we want. And want nothing that we have.
(Mick Jagger said it well – I can't get no satisfaction)

Sex, drugs, power, rebellion are all symptoms of a wandering heart and soul.

>>>> The Cross, The Christ, The
Call <<<<

End of Study