

Date 7/30/17 RBC sf3013

Title: The Value of One Lost Soul

Text: Luke 15:1-7

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

## **1. Sinners Are Lost Until God Finds Them**

Sinners are described as being lost.

**Ephesians 2:12** - "You were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world"

Paul says that "the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:4).

## **2. God Goes to Great Effort to Seek Lost Sinners**

The shepherd leaves his 99 other sheep and goes after the lost one, searching until He finds it. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, who described His mission as "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

### **A. God Seeks Sinners. Sinners Don't Seek God**

**Romans 5:8** - "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"

If salvation had been left up to us we would still be lost. He sent Christ to die for our sins while we were wandering from the fold.

**Romans 3:10-11** - As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.

### **B. God Paid for The Cost of the Search**

**Romans 8:32** - God did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all. He gave His life a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).

### **C. God Pursues Lost Sinners Until He Finds Them**

The shepherd relentlessly searched until at last he found his sheep. In the same way, the Good Shepherd goes after every sheep whom His Father has given to Him, that none will be lost (John 17:2, 6, 9), but that all will be brought safely into His fold.

### **D. When God Finds Lost Sinners He Rescues Them**

When the shepherd found the lost sheep, he didn't get out his whip and drive it back to the fold. He put it securely on his shoulders and carried it home. Jesus said concerning His sheep:

**John 10:28** - "I give eternal life to them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand"

## **3. God Rejoices Greatly When Lost Sinners Come to Repentance**

### **God rejoices when we are saved**

Note verse 5, "rejoicing"; verse 6, "rejoice"; verse 7, "joy"; verse 9, "rejoice"; verse 10, "joy." Heaven is already filled with joy, but when a sinner gets saved, they have a party.

### **God's Joy Is Over Sinners Who Repent, Not Over the Righteous Who Need No Repentance**

The 99 righteous persons who need no repentance to refer to those who have already been justified by grace through faith

### **God's Joy Is Shared by The Angels in Heaven**

**Luke 15:10** - In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."