



### "The Lost Sheep!"

Luke 15:1-7

**The setting:** Tax collectors and sinners that were in the area came to listen to Jesus! Jesus was getting ready to share His true heartbeat once again...**Salvation!**

- Yet, who is it that HATES the fact that Jesus is trying to reach out to people that are away from Him? *The Pharisees and the Scribes!*
- **Understand this one thing:** When Jesus reached the lost...they were willing to repent and change! **He NEVER affirmed any sinful lifestyle to continue! Never!**

#### **1. Tax collectors, sinners and the Pharisees!**

- Luke 15:1-3
- What the Pharisees and Scribes continued to ignore the very humble truths Jesus shared with them about this life and eternity (Luke 14:1-34)!
- Jesus has a very difficult message to follow Luke 14:25-35! It is the ultimate choice of surrender to Him and His way or not! Yet, these sinners and tax collectors are listening!
- Tax collectors and Gentile's were the outcasts of society! While these outcasts were listening to Him, changing their lives (*Matthew the Tax Collector is now a disciple!*), the Pharisees are more determined to kill Jesus!
- **They complained!** Luke 15:2 = *murmured greatly* through the crowds (making a scene with their snobbery)! "This man receives sinners!"
- How does Jesus handle this...

#### **2. Jesus tells the Parable of the lost sheep!**

- Luke 15:3
- Luke 15:4 – "What man of you..."
- Jesus pinpoints this story right at the Pharisees again! See, Jesus was known to talk with sinners in Luke 7:34 / Luke 15:2! **He wanted them to come, listen and repent!**
- This Parable, right off the bat, shows that **God is taking the initiative to reach the sinner!** (Jewish rabbi's believed and taught that God would receive the sinner who sought out Him and His forgiveness earnestly)
- **But here, God is the One seeking the sinner!** Luke 19:10!!!!

- This is why Jesus came down from Heaven to Earth! **Philippians 2:5-11!**
- **Jesus LEFT Heaven to save humanity!** Can the Pharisees not LEAVE their group and religious traditions and ways behind and go find the lost???
- **Luke 15:4** – “...**if he has lost 1 of them**, does he not leave the 99 in the open country, and **go after** the 1 that is lost, **until he FINDS it?**”
- **The shepherd** in the Middle East culture was **responsible** and **obligated to his Master** to make sure that not 1 sheep was lost, killed or injured! It must be found!
- Jesus is the **Good Shepherd** (**John 10**)! **This is why He came to give His life! To find the lost!!!**
- See, a shepherd was not and is not the Master! **Jesus is!**
- A shepherd is put in charge of the sheep to watch over, help guide and feed / water! Same today in the local church!
- This is why you have Pastors/Shepherds in the church to help the congregation (sheep) grow, be equipped and mature...yet Jesus is the Head!!!

### 3. Rejoice!

- **What is the response of finding the 1 lost sheep?** **Luke 15:5** – “...**rejoicing!**”
- **Luke 15:6** – “**Rejoice with me...**”
- **Luke 15:7** – “...there will be **more joy** in Heaven over one sinner who repents...”
- **What should the local church look like?** *A PEOPLE and PLACE of JOY!!!!*
- A person was HELL BOUND and was rescued!
- A person was headed towards JUDGMENT for ETERNITY and was rescued!
- **Do you have the JOY and EXCITEMENT** over reaching that 1 person that is away from Jesus? If so...GO!!!! If not...READ these stories and PRAY that God would give you His heart!
- This is the HEARTBEAT of Jesus! To seek and save those who are lost! **Luke 19:10**

### Close: Don't end up like a Pharisee or Scribe!

- **Luke 15:7**
- Jesus makes it crystal clear to the Pharisees and all of the religious people listening to Him! He came to reach EVERYONE! Not just the Jews! **Romans 3:23 & 29**
- **Romans 11:20-23 & 25** – The Jews brought this on themselves by rejecting Jesus! But, verse 26 gives the Jews hope again! Israel still has hope!
- **Acts 14:27 / Acts 15:7-9 / Acts 28:28**
- **The Pharisees REFUSED to repent!** Jesus once again shows them that the Gentiles, tax collectors and all sinners *who believe, receive and follow* Him will be saved!
- Instead of having the bitterness and jealousy towards the people that Jesus is saving...be a part of this Great Salvation!!!
- Join in and repent, and rejoice and go reach people for Jesus Christ!
- The heartbeat of Jesus is that we **EACH ONE REACH ONE!**