

"Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

Luke 15:7 ESV



The Lost Sheep / The Lost Coin

There are no more painful words than that of being told someone we love has been lost! Imagine, as a parent, the agony of not being able to find a small child that belongs to you. When a child is reported missing the whole countryside turns out in hopeful search for the one who is lost. The parents of Jesus felt much sorrow as they, for a while, did not know His whereabouts (Luke 2). As Jesus later was teaching parables He used the story of the lost to teach the disciples some lesson He wanted them to know.

The parable of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin in Luke 15 should help make us aware of some great lessons Jesus expects us to know.

1. **A wandering sheep.** In the parable of the lost sheep the sinner is pictured as a wandering sheep. God's people are referred to as a flock (Acts 20.28) and from time to time wander away from the fold. When one leaves the flock of God, the parable of Lost Sheep declares that he is lost (Luke 15.4). The reason the wandering sheep is lost is that he is in sin and is separated from God (Isaiah 59.1-2; 1 John 3.4). As a sheep may not be aware of his being separated from the flock and his shepherd until he cannot find his way back, many individuals wander away from God not intending to become lost.

Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.
Jacksonville, FL 32220

Times of Worship

Sunday:

9 am - Bible Classes / 10 am - Worship / 5 pm - Worship

Wednesday:

7 pm - Bible Study/Worship

Evangelist: Devin Barber

www.mariettacoc.com

2. **The love of God.** Surely the leaving of the ninety and nine in search of the one lost sheep shows the love, care and concern that God has for the lost. Paul told the Romans, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5.8). A passage often called the “golden text” of the Bible says, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3.16).

3. **Seeking the lost.** The shepherd searched for the lost sheep “until he found it” (Luke 15.4). We often sing “Seeking the Lost” at the worship service and then go away from the place of worship and forget all about the lost. As we recall that “the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19.10), let’s be found bringing the wanderer back unto the fold. We are saved to save and have been taught to teach. Peter pictured men in this way: “For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of you souls” (1 Peter 2.25). Every church could work from a “lost sheep” list and bring them in from the fields of sin.

4. **Diligence.** In the parable of the Lost Coin diligence was employed in the finding of the coin that was lost. We often wonder why we should worry about just one that might be lost. The man with the one lost sheep could have reasoned, “I have ninety-nine saved sheep” or the woman with the lost coin could have said, “only one piece is lost” — but they didn’t. As we realize the value of just one soul we will be more diligent in caring for, finding and restoring the lost. Paul urged the Galatians, “Brethren if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted” (Galatians 6.1). These two parables certainly point out the value of soul-saving. Jesus said, “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the wold world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16.27)

5. **A rejoicing time.** When the lost sheep was found, as well as with the lost coin, there was “rejoicing” (Luke 15.5-6, 9). Perhaps we have gotten too busy to find time to rejoice as we should. We are told to “Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep” (Romans 12.15). We need to rejoice when the lost are found. The Lord’s people everywhere need to take the time to say words of encouragement to those who obey the Lord, as well as those who are being returned to the fold. Can you imagine a parent not rejoicing when his lost child has been found? Even heaven itself is aware when a sheep comes home. “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” (Luke 15.7)

Let us all be excited about going after that which is lost, until find and bring them back to the fold so heaven can continue to rejoice.

Written by; Johnie Edwards

Article taken from; Christianity Magazine, February 1985, (p. 13)