

Pp1 Dealing with sheep.

Staying with the mob.

LK 15:3

Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not 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."

LK 15:8

"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Pp2

1. The measure of something's value to us can be seen by the passion with which we look for it when it is misplaced.

I'm pretty good, I don't lose too much stuff. But I remember losing my bike computer and I used to take it off the bike after every ride and enter into a

log book the distance, the ave speed, heart rate and all those things. It was a bit of an obsession with me. I could tell you how far I rode in a month, a year, or even 10 years. But also what type of training I did at a particular time. All of that stuff, so misplacing the computer was nearly devastating. Anyway, I got up at 5:30 like normal, well normal for then, not now although I suppose that is about Jacksons wide awake time, so not much has changed really. But I couldn't find the computer. I looked in the usual place I put it, the alternative usual place I put it, I looked at the other place that it sometimes went and I kept looking. I looked for half an hour, I knew I was going to be late to pick up with the people I trained with but I had to find it.

I did find it, I put it back on the bike – I jus didn't think of looking there.

It was important to me, it made me late. If you know me well, you realise that I do not like to be late, so this was hugely important.

I got to the meeting place for training and everyone asked where I had been and I told them what had happened. I said rejoice with me I have foundest the computer which was lost.

The story indicates the importance I placed on my training as much as anything.

The story of the lost sheep indicates the importance of people but and there is a big but here. This is parable be careful how much we read into it And make sure we use all,of scripture to create our theology.

There comes a time when chasing lost sheep has to stop.

1 Tim 1:19-20

Pp3This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

(quick interview with Rob)

The other thing here is whether or not the sheep that goes astray leads others astray. After all, sheep are followers, and we are supposed to be followers. Our leaders are supposed to be leading in the style and motive that Jesus demonstrates.

Mm some food for thought there. How are we pastorally caring for people? How are we leading people?

2.Pp4 The parable of the lost sheep is there so we can get an understanding of how important people are to God.

7

Pp4 *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.*

But the passage in Timothy tells us that there comes a time when we don't chase any more. That's hard but reality.

When one person soughts out their life with God – heaven goes crazy. Why? Because God loves us. God loves sinners that He goes looking for us. We are not relating to him like we should so he finds ways to show us. The bible is one way, friends are another, circumstances another, maybe even sermons sometimes. When we realise that we need to get right with God – Heaven gets excited, Because God wants us to be right with Him. That's what Jesus is all about. Finding a way for us to be right with God.

On the flip side, imagine Gods grief when people reject or even lead others away. This a a pastor is so hard to do, but sometimes necessary.

3.Pp5 The lost sheep story is explained further by another story.

LK 15:8

Pp6 *"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she*

9

finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors to-

10

gether and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the

same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. A

story about 10 coins doesn't seem much to us but this was the woman's total savings. One gets lost, she gets stressed and turns the house upside down to find it.

Today's comparison would be finding out the bank charged you 10% of your savings or taken 10 percent of your whole bank savings rather than giving you interest. You wouldn't go looking for the money, you'd go looking for a head to squash at the bank. But you would hassle about it, you'd fight to get it back, and when you got it back you'd tell your friends.

See the concept, it is something important. Enough to get excited about. These people who, repent, or turn to God are worth partying about. Not all strays repent. That is reality. But when they do, party.

10

Pp7 *In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents*

The angels get excited when we deal with our sin issue. Heaven gets excited when we let Jesus do His thing with sin. Jesus thing is getting rid of the results of sinning. Pp8 Jesus not only gives us a new start but keeps the start new, He permanently deals with sin.

That is enough for us to get excited about. When we accept it, deal with it with God – heaven goes crazy. Why? Because they know God loves us and that's what He wants us to do – deals with sin so we can relate to Him as we are designed to. Cool hey.

So, do, we go chasing strays. Sometimes. Sometimes we have to, let me go, if they are repeat strays. Or none repeaters. That's hard but reality. What we have to do is be preemptive? Help people stop straying, don't let them get too far. bring them back when we can, but respect their decisions.

This is a pastoral care series, what is all this is about? Keep people close. Not letting them get away. Rejoicing in their christian life journey. Rejoicing when they deal with issues in their lives. Looking for them when they are away.

But also keeping us in the mob. Pp9 Look after your own patch of grass. Look after your spiritual well being. More about that in the following weeks.