

Week 7

Lost sheep

What's so important about the one.

Luke 15:3-7 (NIV2011)

³ Then Jesus told them this parable:

⁴ “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?

⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders

⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’

⁷ 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.

Does this make modern farming sense?

I taught Scripture at Hay once and this was the passage. One kid couldn't get it. He said, “ My Dad just shot a coupla hundred sheep cause of tha drought why botha with one extra mouth to feed.”

Our situations are different so how do we get a principle here?

Another scenario. What if this one sheep keeps getting out or lost? IS it worth the effort or as a farmer / pastor friend of mine said “That sheep is setting itself up to be a celebratory BBQ feast. Trouble sheep are best served hot.”

Aren't we glad Jesus is a bit more forgiving and shows more mercy than that.

But for us what's it on about?

Basically – Jesus looks for lost ones, and lets the church care for the critical mass. Mm that's a bit blunt isn't it. But in reality it is true. Mostly, the church cares for those in the church. And we are good at it. At the moment I see people phoning and checking up on people left, right and centre. We are caring for each other and doing it well.

So is that what church is designed for – Care? Yep.

So who is this parable a story to? Those who care outside the church, those who are gifted in looking for the lost. Shouldn't it be all of us- not necessarily. Evangelism is a spiritual gift as is nurturing.

I think the big thing is the celebration. It appears everyone gets involved after the lost is found, but not everyone goes looking or searching for the lost.

I think we will celebrate big time after this corona virus thingy is over. People we have missed will all come together and party, celebrate, worship together and maybe some of the lost too.

Just a couple of things from the passage to think about:

The farmer left the mob. V4

“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?

It is a specific task looking for the lost. It is not an everyday occurrence.

The farmer carries and cares for the lost sheep v5

And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders

He also enjoys the result.

He takes the lost one to safety. V6
and Goes home.

He makes a big deal of it. V6

Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'

The main message is about repenting.

⁷ 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.

It's exciting when people come to God. We should get excited. The rest of us, well in some ways we have had our time of initial excitement of knowing God and we are on the journey. We don't look to that type of celebration.

Question: is one person loved more than the other? No God's care is expressed differently at different times of our spiritual lives.

The excitement of being found is different from the contentment of growing Spiritually or discipling someone else.

So we need to let some people find the lost, then when they come home, we care for them and party with them.