

G R O W T H N O T E S

Scriptures: **Luke 15:1-7**

Series:
ONE MATTERS - PART 1

Message:
“HOW TO FIND LOST SHEEP!”

Luke 15:1-7 NIV: Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” 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.

- ***Everyone matters to God—and therefore—everyone should matter to us!***
- ***‘Misfits’, tax collectors, sinners, and anyone who did not submit to their traditions that were attached to the laws of God, etc., were drawn to Jesus—and NOT driven from Him!***
- They gathered because they wanted to hear the words that Jesus spoke;
- The ‘down and out’—AND—the ‘up and in’—both gathered around Jesus Christ!

Luke 14:35: “...Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

Luke 15:1-7 NIV: Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

WHY!?
BECAUSE LOST PEOPLE MATTER TO
GOD!

- The religious leaders in the text surreptitiously argue among themselves that if Jesus really knows God—then why in the world is He partying with these people!?
- *Jesus responds by flipping the script through His stories—as if to say to them—**IF YOU REALLY KNOW GOD—THEN WHY HAVEN'T YOU JOINED THE PARTY!?***
- *Jesus tells 3 stories to about the nature—the character—and the priorities of Almighty God and what God's attitude and disposition towards people that are lost is!*
- In this first story He illustrates this truth by describing what a shepherd does when a shepherd loses a lamb.

1. The shepherd's first posture is one of
PURPOSEFUL NEGLECT (that flock
grazing in safety—to go after **THE ONE**
that is wandering in danger)!

Luke 15:4: “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?”

Jesus leaving the 99—trying to find the one—seems illogical—irrational—and senseless—UNTIL—THAT ONE IS YOU!

- *The very pulse of God is **THAT GOD IS NOT SATISFIED OR COMFORTABLE WITH ANYBODY BEING LOST!***

2 Peter, Chapter 3, Says—“God is not slack concerning God's promise—as men and women count slackness—BUT—God is longsuffering towards us—patient with us—not willing that any should perish—BUT—that all should come unto repentance.”

- *No one would've blamed the shepherd if he had concluded—"Well I've got 99 left—that one is gonna have to make it on its own!"*

- BUT—the text is teaching us that, that's not the heart of a shepherd!
- A real shepherd is concerned about and cares for all the sheep!—This is the heart of God toward lost people—that God loves every one of us—as if there were only one of us to love!

- *You consider first the number of the sheep—then consider 2ndly—the nature of the sheep;*

- Sheep are weak—defenseless—dumb—get lost easily!

- *The Shepherd in the text purposefully neglects the 99;*

- 2. *There is purposeful neglect—BUT—then there is **RELENTLESS PURSUIT!***

- *The shepherd relentlessly pursues the shepherd's lost lamb—**UNTIL THE SHEPHERD FINDS THE LOST SHEEP!***

- *Jesus is teaching that **GOD NEVER PASSIVELY WAITS FOR US TO RETURN!***
- God is a seeking shepherd who will come after you—until you are found!
- And if you have a pulse—God still has a plan!
- AND—if you still have a pulse—God still has a purpose!

- If you're still breathing—
- if God woke you up—it's a sign and a symbol that God has not given up on you!

3. BUT—THEN THE FINAL MOVEMENT OF THE TEXT—IS THAT THERE'S UNRESTRAINED JOY!

- When the shepherd finds the lamb—there's unrestrained joy forever!
- It's a two-step process—first—there's RECOVERY—AND THEN THERE'S REJOINCING!
- Notice what the shepherd does not do!
- When the shepherd recovers the lost lamb—the shepherd does not berate the lamb!
- The shepherd does not demean the lamb!
- The shepherd does not fuss at the lamb!

- The shepherd does not look down the shepherd's nose at the lamb—as the lost, now found lamb is any less than the others!
- AND—it's a lesson for us the church that as we recover lost lambs and sheep—it's important that we recover them like the shepherd did!
- When the shepherd recovered the lamb—the shepherd picked the lamb up, put it across the shepherd's shoulders and brought the lost, now found lamb back—with celebration!
+++++++
- And—Can I tell you something you already know?—The concern of eternity is lost people being found!
- The most significant thing that's gonna happen here today is not how much money we give—not how hard we sing—not how fervently we prayed—

- Not how well we preach—now how personable we are even virtually—
- The most important thing that happens in any worship service anywhere is if in a few minutes, when the invitation is given—somebody who tuned in lost—gets found!
- That’s what this is all about!
- If one lost lamb finds your way back to God—Heaven rejoices!
- And if you know what it is to be found—you seek those who are lost!
- And if you know what it is to be healed—you seek those who are wounded!
- And if you know what it is to be revived—you seek those who are weary!
- And if you know what it is to be restored—you seek those who are hopeless!

- If you know Jesus for yourself—you celebrate when the lost are found!
- Because there’s more joy in Heaven—over one sinner who repents—than over 99 just people—who need no repentance!

My Notes: _____
