



One More Series Part 1

August 6, 2023

The Gospel of Saint Luke 15:1-7, “Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” 3 So he told them this parable: 4 “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ 7 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.”

May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Word Today, In Jesus Name!

One more; even when the one more was one who was found but then got lost. Friends, life happens. And typically when life happens, it seems that when it rains that it pours. I thank Christ my Lord that when I was lost, He was willing to pursue me in so that He would find me. We have all been as a sheep at some point that have strayed or not make the best of decisions but thankfully we have a Shepherd that is willing to pursue us despite the cost!

I believe that Jesus taught in parables for different reasons depending on His audience, but I believe that this parable teaches us more than just principle. This parable demonstrates the heart of the shepherd and as such should be the model that we strive to imitate. Therefore, let's consider some insights from this parable that Jesus taught...

1. The Shepherd who had One Hundred Sheep took Responsibility for Pursuing the One Sheep that was Lost!

- a. Verses 1-4, "Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." 3 So he told them this parable: 4 "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in

the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?

- b. The Shepherd pursued what was His! It didn't belong to someone else!
- c. Christ pursues us because we are His! We don't belong to someone else and just because we made a mess of our life doesn't disqualify us from His pursuit nor His Call!
- d. The Good Shepherd pursues the lost as much as He tends to the found!
- e. And if we have the Character of Christ then the same should be said of us! That we have the heart to pursue the lost with the same passion that we tend to the found!
- f. But not only did the Good Shepherd take responsibility to pursuing the lost... point #2...

2. The Shepherd who had One Hundred Sheep found Joy in Finding the Lost Sheep and Rejoiced at the Lost being Found!

- a. Verse 5-6, "And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.'"

- b. The lost sheep was just as important to the Shepherd as the flock that didn't wonder off
- c. Friends, the Church is just as important to Christ as the Sinner is important to Christ because the Church is in only in existence because Christ pursued the Sinner!
- d. The Saved matter as much as the Sinner because only difference is the blood has been applied to the saved!
- e. Friends, the Lost matter as much as the redeemed!
- f. But not only did the Good Shepherd rejoice at the finding of the lost sheep, point #3...

3. The Shepherd who had One Hundred Sheep did not Settle for the 99 that He had Because the "ONE" still mattered!

- a. Verse 7, "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."
- b. Friends, the one mattered to the shepherd as much as the heard; to Christ the sinner matters as much to Him as the redeemed...
- c. And with that said, allow me to show a few things about the Heart of the Father and the Sin of the prodigal son...

The Gospel of Saint Luke 15:11-32, ¹¹“And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’” ²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’^[c] ²²But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill

it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’³¹ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

- The elder brother was son of the house but did not have the heart of the father.
 - Friends, you can be a part of the church and not have the heart of the Christ of the Church

- The elder brother was willing to serve his father but was not willing to embody the characteristics of his father
 - friends you can serve in the church and not immolate the characteristics of the Father of the Church

- The elder brother was willing to serve to get but not willing to embrace to forgive
 - friends we cannot fall into the trap of seeking to serve Jesus to get something from Him and then refuse to give to others what Christ has freely given unto us... We must be willing to embrace the prodigal because if we claim to be His disciples then we must do as He does...
 - May we never be found guilty of the heart of the elder brother; may our hearts be that of the Father and not the brother...

The shepherd and the Father were both one in the same because they were willing to embrace what was dirty, celebrate what had been lost and now was found and willing to restore back to the house, back to the fold, thus modeling the truest form of love and restoration.