Lost Sheep – A Shepherd's Love

Luke 15:1-7

Luke 15:1-3 (NLT)

- ¹ Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach.
- ² This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them!
- ³ So Jesus told them this story:

Luke 15:4-7 (NLT)

- ⁴ "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it?
- ⁵ And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders.
- ⁶ When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.'
- ⁷ In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!

I. You are Extremely Valuable to Father.

II. You need a Good Shepherd

A. To Help You in Times of Need.

You need a Good Shepherd: B. To Protect You

1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)

⁸ Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

- Psalm 23:1-6 (NLT)
- ¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need.
- ² He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.
- ³ He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.
- ⁴ Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.
- ⁵ You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.
- ⁶ Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalm 91:1-16 (NKJV)

¹ He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust." Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day, Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked.

⁹ Because you have made the LORD, *who is* my refuge, *Even* the Most High, your dwelling place, No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone. You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

¹⁴ "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name.

¹⁵ He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.

¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation."

You need a Good Shepherd:

C. To Guide You

John 14:1-6 (NLT)

- ¹ "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.
- ² There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?
- When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.
- ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going."
- ⁵ "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"
- ⁶ Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

You need a good Shepherd: D. To find you because you are lost.

Isaiah 53:6 (NLT)

⁶ All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.