

Luke 15: 1-7; “The Parable of the Lost Sheep”, Session # 3 – “Jesus and the Hundred Sheep”, Presented by Pastor Paul Rendall on December 10th, 2023, in the Adult Sunday School.

Luke 15: 1-7 – “Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, ‘This Man receives sinners and eats with them.’ “So He spoke this parable to them, saying: ‘What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?’ “And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.” “And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ “I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.”

1. It will be good if we can think about these hundred sheep that Jesus mentions.

Verse 4 – “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?” “And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.”

Question # 1 – Who do the hundred sheep represent?

Answer: 1st of all – The 100 sheep represent the whole flock of the Jews, the ones who under the Old Covenant were considered to be His sheep because He had called them to be His special people. And He went looking for them, to bring them out of their bondage to slavery in the land of Egypt in the days of Moses.

Psalms 78: 52 – “But He made His own people go forth like sheep, and guided them in the wilderness like a flock; and He led them on safely, so that they did not fear; but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.” And He brought them to His holy border, this mountain which His right hand had acquired.” “He also drove out the nations before them, allotted to them an inheritance by survey, and made the tribes of Israel dwell in their tents.”

Question # 2 – What did God do for Old Testament Israel when He brought them out of Egypt, according to these verses?

Answer: He brought them out like a large flock of sheep, leading them on safely, while He destroyed the Egyptian army with the waters of the Red Sea. He brought them to His holy border. That is, the border of the land of Canaan. He drove out the nations before them, and he allotted to each tribe among them, an inheritance. He then caused them to dwell in the tents in safety and prosperity as long as they would obey His good commandments.

2. But these 100 sheep also represent all the lost sinners in all the Nations in the World

That is, those who need the gospel preached to them. How do we know this? Well, turn with me to Psalm 100.

Psalms 100: 1-5 – “A Psalm of Thanksgiving. Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His

gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.”

Question # 3 – What are some of the reasons that all people, both Jews and Gentiles, should make a joyful shout to the Lord, and serve Him with gladness?

Answer: Because He is God. Because it is He who has made us and not we ourselves. Because, if we have believed in Him, and in His dear Son, our Lord Jesus, we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. He is going to take care of us as a shepherd does his sheep. He will feed us, care for us, watch over us, guide us, and bring us safely through this life and into the next, teaching us many valuable principles of truth which will make us holy and wise people. Therefore, we should come and worship the Lord our God. And we should serve Him with gladness and come before His presence with singing.

So, all of the Jewish people, during Old Covenant, Old Testament times, were God’s chosen people. They are instructed here in this Psalm in verse 3, to see themselves as God’s sheep. They were the sheep of His pasture. But we know, also, that we Gentiles will be able to glorify God for His mercy to us, also, if we believe in the Lord Jesus for salvation.

Romans chapter 15: 8-11 – “Now I say that Jesus Christ became a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: ‘For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your name.’ “And again he says: ‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!’ “And again: ‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles!’ “Laud Him, all you people.”

Question # 4 – What does it mean that Jesus became a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers?

Answer: Jesus became a servant to the circumcision in that He came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many. He served the Jewish people in the highest sense, in that He fulfilled the whole law of God on their behalf, so that, in their believing in Him, they would be justified by faith, and become some of the sheep whom He would go to the cross and die for.

Question # 5 – Why would the Gentiles be able to rejoice in Christ’s servanthood just as much as the Jews?

Answer: Because it would be on this same basis of Chris’s righteousness and His death on behalf of sinners, that the Gentiles would be justified by faith and become adopted sons and daughters of God. They two would become sheep of His pasture. They would be one flock with one Shepherd.

John 10: 14-16 – “I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.” “As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.” “And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.”

Question # 6 – What does Jesus mean when He says that He knows His sheep, and is known by His own? Does He know by name all the sheep that He will save?

Question # 7 – Who are the other sheep which are not of this fold, that He mentions, that He must bring? And what is the one flock with the one Shepherd known to us now, as?

Answer: The other sheep are the elect Gentiles whom God would purpose to save through Christ's death.

So the calling of Gentiles into the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ was most certainly planned for, in and through Christ's redemptive work on behalf of all of God's elect people. He would break down the barrier between Jew and Gentile and make them into one new people. Here He prays that they would become one flock with one Shepherd.