

**Luke 15: 1-7; “The Parable of the Lost Sheep”, Session # 6 – “99 Sheep Needing No Repentance?”, Presented by Pastor Paul Rendall on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, 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.”

**Review –**

- 1. Jesus’ Mission is to seek and to save that which is lost . (verses 1 & 2) Luke 19: 1-10**
- 2. Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd who seeks the Sheep.** He goes after the one which is lost until he finds it. And when He finds them, He knows how to minister to them.
  - a. He seeks them to deliver them from false shepherds. Ezekiel 34: 11 & 12**
  - b. The Lord Jesus would watch over His flock. He would carry them and gently lead them. Isaiah 40: 10 & 11**
- 3. When He finds the sheep, He lays it on His Shoulders rejoicing.**
  - a. There was joy in Jesus’ heart concerning all that He would do for us, as a lost sheep. Hebrews 12: 2**
  - b. The Basis of Christ’s Effectual ministry: He saw the problem of sinful mankind, and knew what He had to do if anyone was to be saved. Isaiah 53: 4-8 and 11 and 12. Romans 8: 32**
- 4. When Jesus finds His lost sheep He lays it on His shoulders, rejoicing. Luke 15: 5 & 6**
  - a. There was joy in Jesus’ heart concerning all that He would do for us, as a lost sheep. Hebrews 12: 2**
  - b. The Basis of Christ’s Effectual ministry: He saw the problem of sinful mankind, and knew what He had to do if anyone was to be saved. Isaiah 53: 6**

**Today’s Lesson** – I will continue from where I left off last week. But we will focus not only upon the sheep who are found, but the sheep who are lost because they think that they need no repentance.

**5. Christ accomplished redemption for all of God’s elect sheep, and applies it to them personally. Others who think that they need no repentance will continue in the wilderness.**

**Isaiah 53: 1-5** – Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. and we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

**Question # 1** – According to the above verses, why couldn’t the scribes and the Pharisees rejoice in Christ’s Person, His ministry, and His teaching on salvation in Himself?

**Answer:** They could not rejoice in the Lord's Jesus because they thought that He was not spiritually perfect or beautiful. They despised Him and rejected Him because they did not want to believe that He was the Son of God. They did not believe that they needed the repentance which Jesus was calling them to.

**Question # 2** – Is Christ's redemption general, then, or particular, according to these verses 2-5 in Isaiah 53? Has Christ borne the griefs and carried the sorrows of those who do not esteem Him and who will hold to their own righteousness?

**Answer:** No, Christ's redemption was, and is, particular to those particular persons who know themselves to be sinners. They will look to Him in faith to bear their griefs, carry their sorrows. It is particular to those who esteem Him stricken and smitten by God for them. They see Him as wounded for their transgressions and bruised for their iniquities. They believe that the chastisement for their peace was upon Him at the cross. And so they come to know that by His stripes, they were healed. Christ's redemption is only particular to any person, if they will believe in Him.

**Question # 3** – Is Christ's sacrifice automatically applied to every person? Is it applied to those who find Him unlovely, and not beautiful, or those who do not desire Him or esteem Him?

**Answer:** No it is not. And they will perish in their sins if they do not believe in Him. Because they themselves do not think that they need to repent or to be saved. They do not see Jesus as either their Messiah or their Savior. That is how it was for many of the Pharisees and the scribes. They saw no beauty in Him to desire Him. They despised and rejected Him. They did not esteem Him.

## **6. The 99 sheep in the Parable are actually the flock belonging to the Pharisees and scribes.**

### **a. The Issue in this Parable is Jesus associating with sinners.**

**Question # 4** – Do you think that the Pharisees and scribes saw themselves as sinners who needed to repent?

**Answer:** No, they thought of themselves as just men who needed no repentance.

### **b. The reason that Jesus told this Parable was because the Pharisees and the scribes also were spiritual shepherds, too, but they were false shepherds.**

**Question # 5** – How can we conclude that the flock of 99 sheep that Jesus mentions in the Parable are actually those who He leaves in the wilderness? What does it mean that He leaves the 99 in the wilderness?

**Answer:** From Jesus' standpoint, in how He told the Parable, His leaving them in the wilderness meant that He would leave the 99 in the possession of the Pharisees and the scribes who believed in salvation by the works of the law. They themselves, and those whom they shepherded who believed in their false doctrine were the 99 who believed that they did not need repentance.

**Question # 6** – What was the greatest sin that these Pharisees and scribes and all that followed them and believed in them, were guilty of?

**Answer:** Their greatest sin was that they were guilty of not believing that they needed to be found and brought into His fold, and become His disciples. But He will go and seek and save the one sheep who

knows that they are lost, and who knows that they cannot save themselves. These were the sinners who were drawing near to Jesus hear Him, in verse 1.

**Question # 7** – What is the rebuke which Jesus is giving them in relation to His own leaving the 99 sheep in the wilderness and going after the one who was lost?

**Answer:** Jesus says that “the shepherd leaves them in the wilderness”, He is speaking to the Pharisees and the scribes, saying that this is what they should be doing, going out looking for lost sheep. To do so, they would have to associate with sinners. They would have to leave their supposedly safe “flock” who followed their teachings and go and deliberately look for sinners to bring the truth of salvation from sin to them.

**Question # 8** – Why wouldn’t the Pharisees and the scribes want to do this, leave the 99 to look for a lost one?

**Answer:** This was something which they would not want to do, because they would then have to acknowledge Jesus’ mission, which was to come to seek and to save that which was lost.

**c. Jesus was saying through this Parable that all men need to repent of their sins.**

So Jesus actually is saying that this is what He had come to do, as the Good Shepherd, to leave the 99 in the wilderness. That is He leaves them to the care of the Pharisees and the Scribes, but He Himself does not fail to seek and to save the lost person who knows that they need to be saved.

**In the Parable, Jesus says** – “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.”

**Question # 9** – Are there any just persons in the world who need no repentance?

**Answer:** No, but there are many people who trust in their own righteousness who think that they are righteous in the sight of God trying to be justified by their own works. There is no one who does not need repentance to be granted to them by God by believing that they need to be saved by Jesus Christ. But there are many like the Pharisees and scribes who do not think of themselves as needing that kind of repentance, of their turning from their self-righteousness to see their need of Christ. This is why Jesus worded this Parable the way that He did.

**Concluding Statements about the Meaning of this Parable:**

Notice that Jesus says – Which man of you, having a hundred sheep... He is posing this question to the Pharisees and the scribes. And He is saying to them – Which one of you would not do this with your own sheep? So, the Pharisees and the scribes were posited by Jesus, in this Parable, as having their own sheep. And these sheep of theirs, all 99 of them, are spoken of by Jesus as being, according to His description of them, – 99 sheep, or persons, who need no repentance. That is, that if they saw one of their own 100, lost and wandering away, they should leave the 99 in the wilderness to search for a lost one. But actually they would leave them where they were. And where were they? They were together, as a flock of sheep in the wilderness. The Pharisees and the scribes thought that the 99 were safe. And the reason that thought that they were safe was because they believed that were “just persons who needed no repentance”. But really they needed salvation, the salvation that the Lord Jesus alone, could bring to them.

