

**Luke 15: 1-7; “The Parable of the Lost Sheep”, Session # 2 – “To Seek & To Save”, Presented
by Pastor Paul Rendall on December 3rd, 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. In this parable, Jesus appeals to the common sense of the scribes and the Pharisees.

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?”

Question # 1 – What kind of a reproof is Jesus giving to these scribes and Pharisees in verse 4?

Jesus is saying to them: Wouldn't you men, who are complaining about Me receiving sinners and eating with them, if you have 100 sheep, if you lose one of them; wouldn't you leave the 99 who are safely under your care, and go after the one which is lost until you had found it? Well, certainly they would have. Therefore, Jesus is saying – Why should you grumble and complain if I go after the lost sheep of the house of Israel?

2. Jesus' Mission is to seek and to save that which is lost . (verses 1 & 2)

Luke 19: 1-10 – “Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house. So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner. Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold. And Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Question # 2 – For a sinner to come to Christ what does he have to have spiritually if he is going to going to be saved? What did Zacchaeus have to do here?

Answer: He has to have a sight of Jesus. He has to get to the place, either go to a church, or to read the Bible, or to talk to someone who knows Jesus, if he would be saved. Zacchaeus had to climb the tree to see Him because he was short of stature.

Question # 3 – What does a sinner need to do nowadays, according to verses 5 and 6, to be saved?

Answer: He needs to make haste to come down from his high view of things and receive Jesus with joy.

Question # 4 – Why did all the Jews who were standing there watching this, complain about Jesus going to be the guest of a man who was a sinner?

Answer: Because they thought that a man who was truly holy would never associate with sinful men in this way, to go to their house, and spend time with them.

Question # 5 – Why did Jesus say to Zacchaeus, after he said that he would give half of his goods to the poor, that – Today salvation had come to his house, and that he was a son of Abraham?

Answer: Because He knew that Zacchaeus was believing in Him savingly and that he was repenting of his sins.

Question # 6 – How do we know that Jesus was actually seeking sinful Zacchaeus to be saved that day?
Answer: He looked up and called him by name, and told him to make haste and come down, for that day He was going to stay at his house.

Question # 7 – Does Jesus Himself have to seek a person spiritually today, if they are going to be saved, according to verse 10?

Answer: Yes. How do we know that? Because all persons are lost by nature.

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

Question # 8 – Who do the hundred sheep represent?

Answer: The 100 sheep represent the whole flock of the Jews, the ones who under the Old Covenant were God's sheep. And they were called so in many places in the Scripture.

Psalm 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.”