

**Luke 15: 1-7; “The Parable of the Lost Sheep”, Session # 5 – “His Sheep on His Shoulders”,  
Presented by Pastor Paul Rendall on January 7<sup>th</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.”

**When we read the phrase in verse 5 – And when He has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing”, what should we think it represents spiritually in relation the Lord Jesus?**

**I believe that it represents the fact that He has succeeded in accomplishing and applying His redemption on their behalf.**

**Review –**

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

**Luke 19: 1-10 – Zacchaeus**

**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** – “For thus says the Lord GOD: Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out.” “As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day.”

**b. The Lord Jesus would watch over His flock. He would carry them and gently lead them.**

**Isaiah 40: 10 & 11** – “Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him.” “He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young.”

**Today’s Lesson –**

**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** – “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

**Question # 1** – Who is the Author and Finisher (or Perfector) of our faith?

**Question # 2** – What was the joy that was set before Him?

We see here that the Lord Jesus is both the author of our faith and the finisher (or perfecter) of our faith. His is a hands on work. This work begins with His finding us and carrying us on His shoulders. This work of laying us on His shoulders, however, began back during the time of His earthly ministry, with His bearing our sins in His body on the tree. But even before that He had on His heart in the joy that was set before Him when He thought of all that He would accomplish for us by His sufferings and death on our behalf.

**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.**

**Let's take a closer look at what the Scriptures say concerning this seeking and finding of the lost sheep.**

**Isaiah 53: 6** – “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

**Question # 3** – What is sin described as, in this verse? And what did the Lord Jesus have to do, to fulfill the Father's will in regard to our redemption?

**Answer:** Sin is our going astray from God from His word. It is our turning every one of us to his own way.

**Question # 4** – How can we describe the substitutionary atonement of Christ according to the last phrase of this verse? Is it a universal substitutionary atonement or a particular one?

It is a particular one because if our iniquities are really laid on Christ, then we must be forgiven, justified, adopted, sanctified, and eventually glorified. His having suffered these things for us means that the application of that redemption must be made to the one believing in Him.

**Romans 8: 32** – “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

**The same words – “us all” are used here, as they are in Isaiah 53: 6.**

**Question # 5** – Even though the atonement for our redemption is particular in terms of God's applying it to whom He chooses, can we legitimately say that the offer of the gospel is universal? (That is, we can offer it to all men everywhere)

**Answer:** Yes, we can say that the offer is universal. And yes, we can and we should offer it to all men everywhere.

**Mark 16: 15 & 16** – “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

**John 5: 24** – “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”

**Question # 6**– Does God lay the iniquity of all men upon Christ at the cross? Does He die in the place of “us all” as sinners in general? Or is it only the iniquity of those who will believe in Him, that is laid upon Him?

**Answer:** It appears from the use of the words “us all” that it is referring to all men, but the text in Isaiah 53 answers this question in several other verses in a more particular way.

**Isaiah 53, verse 4** – “Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.” It says – We esteemed Him thus, as stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

**Question # 7** – Who are those who esteemed Christ as stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted?

**Answer:** It is not those persons who will not believe, or who do not esteem Him. But it is those who esteem Him in this particular way of looking to Him in faith. They believe that He suffered in this way so that they could be saved from their sins and forgiven of them all.

**Question # 8** – Are our griefs borne, and our sorrows carried, if we do not esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted, for our sakes personally?

**Answer:** No, they are not, because we have not esteemed Him; that is, we have not thought highly enough of His great sacrifice on the cross for us personally, to believe in Him and receive Him, and what He has done for us on the cross, by faith in Him.

#### **4. Redemption accomplished on our behalf by Christ, must be personally applied to us by the Triune God.**

**Verse 5** – 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 # 9** – If Christ was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities, then will we most certainly find peace with God, and peace from God, and be actually spiritually healed by His wounds for us?

**Answer: Yes, we most certainly will.**

If Christ was actually wounded and bruised for our transgressions and iniquities, then you can very clearly see that the certain blessings of your having peace and your being healed are most certainly conveyed to you by God Himself. But if you never believe, the redemption is never applied to you. If you do believe, it will most certainly be applied to you.

**Verses 11 and 12** – “He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied.” “By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.” “Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

**Question # 10** – What does verse 11 mean, that Christ shall see the labor of His soul and be satisfied? What was the labor of His soul? And how will He be satisfied by it?

**Answer:** The labor of His soul was the sufferings that He underwent on our behalf, in both soul and body, to accomplish our redemption on the cross. He is satisfied that His sufferings were worth all that He went through, when He can most certainly see us saved, changed, and transformed from being sinners to being God’s saints.

**Conclusion:** The problem of sin is a mankind problem. All we are like sheep in this regard. By nature, we turn every one of us, to his own way. The Father laid the iniquity of us all, that is, the sheep that He would save, upon His Son. We believe in a substitutionary atonement. It is based upon a particular redemption of particular persons whom God has chosen to eternal life. This excludes no one from the free offer of the gospel. We preach the gospel to all men. Jesus knew that He, the Good Shepherd, would have to lay down His life for the sheep, that is, all of God's elect people. He would have to suffer and die so that He could not only purchase our redemption, but also be able to apply this redemption to us in particular.