

Pastors Thoughts of the Week

Luke 15:6: And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

What pathos! What endearing care the Lord has for the lost. It is evident in the fact that He here gathers together the outcasts and demonstrates His willingness to forgive. These words were validated by actions. How many the occasion do we find the Savior stooping to heal the lame, or to feed the poor, hungering multitudes. How He wrote on the ground when asked to accuse the adulteress and by thus doing wrote forgiveness over a life of shame. Did he not weep with the grieving sisters when they brought him to the grave of their dead brother. And did he not summon him out of the grave to their astonishment and joy. And did not the good shepherd lay down his life for his friends. Indeed "greater love hath no man than this".

An hireling shepherd might just as soon leave the lost lamb to it's own devices. He might reason that the sheep made it's own bad choice in leaving the flock and so should rightly pay the consequence. He had the 99 left. The loss would be negligible. But a good shepherd sees the value of the one. He would as soon lose all than to lose even one. And so embarks on His mission to "seek and to save that which was lost".

How foolish we have all been in the time past of our lives. We accepted the multiplied benefits of provision, health, and protection afforded to us from our Father in heaven. Yet we "like sheep have gone astray". The siren call of worldly lusts and pleasures and the deceitfulness of riches seduced us and spirited us away to a profitless destiny. Too far away to find our own way back, and perhaps too ashamed to admit our error, we cower in desolation, hunger and fear. But then we spied the shadowy figure of the one who took the far journey and traced our sinful path and sought and found us just as we were ready to perish.

The parable of the lost lamb was a two-edged sword. It brought comfort and delight to the disenfranchised sinners who had lost hope that they could ever enter the heavenly kingdom because of their abysmal sin record; at the same time it served as a scathing denunciation of the apostate religionists who excluded those that didn't meet their standard of holiness. "But woe unto you scribes Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in."

The Jewish religion had devolved into a perfunctory, external ritual, with no toleration for those who had lost their way. The Good Shepherd came to call these back to the flock

Matthew 9:36: "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd". Not only had he come to save the chosen people, but He had room in His atoning work for the despised gentile as well. John 10:16: "And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd" ..

Have a blessed day .

Pastor

Faith cometh by hearing: and hearing by the word of God Romans 10:17