

LUKE 15:1-7

GAME

READ TEXT

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

3 Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? 5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

THEN

Why would the Tax Collectors and Sinners be gathering to hear Jesus?

- Open Discussion

Who is muttering in this passage?

- What is muttering?
- Who are the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law?

Why does Jesus teach in Parables?

- Open Discussion

What happens in the Parable?

- Open Discussion

Why does Jesus begin with the word 'Suppose' – what does it infer?

- infers and understanding of the material being presented

How does a shepherd lose only one sheep – why not more or less?

- Target audience is not Israel, but the individual hearts of those listening
- Sheep = 1 in 99, Coin = 1 in 10, Son = 1 in 2 (Targeted Teaching)

What does it mean for only the one sheep to be lost?

- Sheep often leave the flock: Bad Examples, Hunger/Fresh Pasture, Stupidity (do not look up)
- One sheep on its own never returns to the flock – has to be led

What does the Shepherd do when realizing the sheep has disappeared?

- 'Goes after it'

How long does the Shepherd search?

- 'Until he finds it'

What does the Shepherd do when he finds the Sheep?

- 5 and when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'

How does Jesus finish his teaching after the conclusion of the parable?

- 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Who is this Parable aimed at? Why?

- Pharisees and Teachers of the Law
- 'over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.'

What kind of heart are the Sinners and tax collectors coming to Jesus with?

- Repentant and Broken, wanting to change and seeing their sin clearly

What kind of heart are the Pharisees and Tax Collectors coming to Jesus with?

- Unrepentant and Hard, not able to see their need for Jesus or their sin
- 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Teach: Past 3 Chapters, Jesus has been teaching Religious Leaders, Pharisees and Prominent Jews**What is the Author trying to inform us about Jesus' teachings?**

- Jesus wanted to save everyone
- Fought to save the Jewish Establishment, give them every opportunity to repent and change

Why?

- Because without him chasing after them, they would never return to the flock

NOW**What can we learn from Jesus teaching this Parable?**

- Open Discussion

Over time, how can we end up looking like the Pharisees in this passage?

- Arrogant and Self-reliant, not seeing our need to be shepherded or ourselves as sheep
- Judgemental and condescending to those we believe are hopeless
- Hard-hearted, unable to see that we are again lost or have been led astray

What should be understood about Jesus when we catch ourselves acting this way?

- Still loves us and will do everything in his power to find us
- will not stop searching until he finds us!

What should be our response to this understanding?

- Let Jesus lead us back to the Flock

APPLICATION

This week: How can we acknowledge our need for Jesus to lead us once again?

- Open Discussion
- Quiet times, prayer and reading to see what the bible really says about your life and heart (reality check)
- D-Times, get open with others about your need for Jesus and ask for objective input into how you are doing
- Fast, see your needs more clearly and then acknowledge your spiritual need by parallel

What can we do to let Jesus lead us back to the Flock?

- Open Discussion
- Soften our hearts, get humble and be open asking for input from others
- Start putting into practice what the patterns in the NT look like (attendance, sacrifice, love and selflessness)

How does this help grow our character and change our point of view?

- Open Discussion