

Luke 15:1-7

Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has 100 sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the 99 in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous persons who do not need to repent.”

Big Idea

Jesus cares about the lost. Do we?

Devotional

We have been told the parable of the lost sheep many times. Many of us know it by heart. There are 100 sheep and one gets lost. Then the shepherd leaves the 99 to go find the one. The shepherd finds the lost one and he returns to have a joyous celebration. Now, what if we consider and imagine from the point of view of the found sheep. How is he reacting to being found? The lost sheep was very vulnerable, frightened, scared. Praying for the shepherd to come and take him to safety. There are many of us who have felt that same vulnerability of being lost and prayed for someone to come find us. This sheep is no longer lost but restored to the safety of the flock because the shepherd found him. The shepherd cared enough about him to look for him.

Jesus is our shepherd and is intentionally seeking for anyone that may be lost. He cares about us. We no longer need to feel vulnerable, frightened or scared. We always have our protector, Jesus, with us. We may stray from time to time, but He will bring us back. Jesus' dedication and compassion for each of us to be a part of the community and to have a relationship with all of his children is reason enough for a celebration. Each of us who are found are welcomed with joyous excitement. We feel that safety and security. However, there are still many who are lost, vulnerable and scared and do not know the love of Jesus. Consider how joyous it would be to no longer be lost. Are you able to identify someone (the “One”) in your life that needs to be found?

Prayer

Father of the Lost, please help us find the lost together and guide them into the boundless love of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.