



Church of God Sunday School

PARABLES OF JESUS: THE LOST SHEEP AND THE LOST COIN

Matthew 18:12-14; Luke 15:1-10

As Jesus was teaching in Capernaum (*kuh-PUHR-nee-uhm*), publicans (tax collectors) and sinners drew near Jesus to listen. The Pharisees and scribes murmured against Jesus, saying, "This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them." Jesus heard their murmurs. So He told three parables (stories) to show the great love God has for sinners. This lesson tells the first two parables.

The first story Jesus told was about a shepherd and his flock of sheep. Many of the Jews were familiar with raising sheep and would understand what He was talking about.

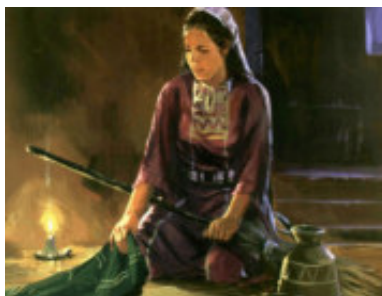
Jesus asked the people if any having one hundred sheep found that one was lost, would he not go looking for that lost sheep until it was found, no matter how difficult the search? A true shepherd would search until the lost sheep is found for every sheep is precious to him. Then, when it is found, he would put it on his shoulders and bring it safely home, where he would tell friends and neighbors, "Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost."



Jesus compared the shepherd's joy with the joy that is felt in Heaven when one lost sinner repents of his sins: ". . . likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." A "just" person is often someone who is morally good and feels self-righteous. God did "not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Matthew 9:13).

The second story Jesus told was about a woman who lost a coin. Jesus asked if a

woman had ten pieces of silver and she lost one, wouldn't she seek diligently until she found it? Look at how carefully the woman looks for that lost coin. She lights a candle and sweeps her house. No doubt, she looks behind every door and under every rug. It is very important that she find it!



Then, when the woman finds the coin, she is so excited! She does not keep her joy to herself, but she calls her friends and neighbors to come together and rejoice with her for she has found the lost coin.



Again, Jesus compared this joy with the joy that is felt "in the presence of the angels of God" when a sinner repents of his sins.

When Jesus told these stories, do you think He was merely concerned with a lost sheep or a lost coin? Jesus was comparing these lost things to someone who does not have God in their lives. A sinner is like a sheep that has wandered away from the shepherd and the flock. He is lost, unable to protect himself from Satan. He needs a shepherd to take care of him.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Just as the shepherd and the woman carefully searched for what was lost, so Jesus is earnestly searching for every boy and girl who does not have God in their hearts. What great joy Jesus must feel when someone who was lost gives his or her heart to God!

Are you a little lost lamb? Did you know that Jesus gave His life so that you can be found? He wants you to be safe in the fold with His other sheep. Why not give your heart to Jesus today?

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost."*  
—Luke 15:6  
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The Good Shepherd Looks for All Lost Sheep



How Many Sheep Are Hidden in the Hill?



Complete the Dot-to-Dot Puzzles

**Which
Animal
Was the
Shepherd
Searching
For?**

