

Luke 15:1-7

JESUS CAME FOR LOST SHEEP

- I. The lost sheep.
 - A. The occasion for this (and the following) parable is the sinners and publicans drawing near to hear Jesus.
 - 1. The “sinners” were the common people who either did not know the laws well or did not work hard to keep the laws.
 - 2. The Pharisees and scribes severely criticized Jesus because He visited with those they thought He should shun.
 - 3. Jesus begins the parable with a rhetorical question: all of them would have looked for a lost sheep.
 - B. In the parable a shepherd, realizing that one of his sheep was lost, did everything he could to find the lost.
 - 1. This sheep had foolishly wandered from the safety of the shepherd, not followed his voice but went its own way.
 - 2. The lost sheep represents the sinners who were coming to Him wanting to hear Him.
- II. The Shepherd goes out and does everything He can to find the straying sheep. Think of the agitation over a missing child.
 - A. Jesus “leave”s the other sheep because they have no need for Him.
 - B. The shepherd is filled with concern and anxiousness for His purchased sheep that had strayed.
 - 1. His tender regard for such a sheep made him endure the weariness, hunger and thirst of a night without sleep.
 - 2. And He leads us back in the way of godly sorrow and sincere repentance.
 - C. The Shepherd does this, not with the whip of commandments, but with the tender care, not weary of bringing us back again.
- III. The joy (over against the critical murmuring of the Pharisees).
 - A. The shepherd rejoices (6), for he finds his restoring work to be successful.
 - B. Fellow believers have great joy when other members of the body repent.
 - C. And there is joy in heaven (7).