

Matthew 18:12-14
When You're #100

What do you think? ...

- I. Lost Sheep
 - A. A Parable
 - B. Of Compassion
- II. In God's Eyes
 - A. His Sheep
 - B. His Children
- III. Worth Rescuing
 - A. The Lost
 - B. The Listening

... and what will you do?

Children, Listen ...

1. What happens to one of the sheep in Jesus' story?
2. What does the shepherd do?
3. How is Jesus like the shepherd in the story?

Recruiting Under-shepherds

There are warnings against ambitions to be #1 in the Kingdom of God, but you don't want to be #100 either. In Jesus' parable one sheep out of 100 has gone astray and is presumably in danger. This one obviously represents a believer who has left the flock, gone astray and is obviously backslidden. But the lost sheep itself is actually the third concern in the parable. The first is Jesus the Good Shepherd who cares for the sheep, the second are those who should take interested in the retrieval process. The Lord makes it clear that even though the individual in question may be foolish and willful, they are worth rescuing. If they are His, He will go after them. But Jesus uses "feet on the ground" you might say, to retrieve to wandering creature. It may not be easy, it may take us into some rough territory, but if we want to have the heart of the Good Shepherd Jesus, we will be willing to make the effort to help bring the wayward back into the fold.