

What Makes Us Unique

Lost and Found

Luke 15:1-7

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he told them this parable: 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

Luke 15:1-7

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

Throughout the past few weeks, this parable has reminded us of the depth of the love of the shepherd, encouraged us in the areas where we're called to lead, and helped us align our values more closely with God's. This week we look at what the remaining 99 sheep can teach us about community. What binds us together is not our backgrounds or skills, but the fact that each of us is prone to wander at any given time. Paul reminds us in [Romans 7:15](#) that we are at one moment capable of great things, only to wander away seconds later. **How does our common identity as sheep free us to be authentic and honest with one another? How have you been encouraged by community in times of wandering?**

When we try to live by morality and rules, it is impossible for us to be truthful about what's going on in our lives. We currently see this type of ideological purity demanded on both ends of the political spectrum. By celebrating and remembering that we are all merely sheep, with none higher than the other, we can counter this type of intolerance. **In what areas in your life do you try to live by too many rules? Where are you being called to place reminders of love and truth over rules?**

Read [Psalm 23](#). **Of which characteristics of the shepherd do you need to be most reminded? What can you pray for the shepherd to redeem and transform in your own life this week?**

We are promised that even in our darkest times, the shepherd will never leave us. As his sheep, we have the gift of being able to remind one another about his great love. **Who are you being called to encourage this week of the great love of the shepherd?**

Heavenly Father, help us to commit to each other to walk this path together as sheep, united by the shepherd. Unite us in the midst of our diversity. Help us to live honestly, and to encourage one another of your redeeming and transforming power. May we transform Austin through your love. Amen.