

Good News of Salvation in the Saviour’s Parables

This week – We continue our series of lessons based on some Parables of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Rejoice with Me, for I have found My sheep which was lost.” Luke 15v6.

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Luke 15v1-10 (Rejoice, the lost sheep is found)	
Monday	Matthew 18v1-14 (Christ, the Good Shepherd)	
Tuesday	Psalms 23 (The Lord is my Shepherd)	
Wednesday	Isaiah 53v1-12 (Christ’s great love for sinners)	
Thursday	Isaiah 40v1-15 (The Shepherd gathers His lambs)	
Friday	1 Peter 2v9-25 (Believers are like rescued sheep)	
Saturday	Psalms 119v160-176 (We are like lost sheep)	

Important Thought for us Today: Why does the Bible liken us to sheep? In great need of a caring shepherd? People would rather liken themselves to a kingly lion - bold and strong, or to a gazelle - swift and graceful, or to a peaceful dove. But God looks down from Heaven and sees our foolish attitude and sinful behaviour, and so likens us to weak, silly, and vulnerable sheep, (Isaiah 53v6). We all know that sheep are apt to wander, often away from safety, and into danger. The Greek word used in the Bible for a sheep is ‘one that walks ahead’, (πρόβατον, ‘probaton’) and the suggestion is ‘to walk ahead without due care’. Sheep need a shepherd to watch over them, to keep them safe, *‘to lead them in green pastures and beside the still waters’, (Psalm 23)* and to search for them, and rescue them when they wander away, and fall into danger. What a beautiful picture we have in Scripture of the Good Shepherd, The Lord Jesus Christ, who loved His sheep so much that He came to die on Calvary to save them, and to carry them, safely, on His shoulders, back to the fold.

Hymn 438 speaks to us as lost sheep and the love of the Shepherd Who died to save:

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| <p>1. I was a wandering sheep,
I did not love the fold:
I did not love my Shepherd’s voice,
I would not be controlled:
I was a wayward child,
I did not love my home,
I did not love my Father’s voice,
I loved afar to roam.</p> | <p>3. Jesus my Shepherd is;
‘Twas He that loved my soul,
‘Twas He that washed me in His blood,
‘Twas He that made me whole;
‘Twas He that sought the lost,
That found the wandering sheep;
‘Twas He that brought me to the fold,
‘Tis He that still doth keep.</p> |
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The Lost Sheep.

- **The Lord taught this Parable to remind us that we are like Sheep.**
 - Sheep - prone to wander thoughtlessly into danger; weak and vulnerable.
 - Sheep need a shepherd’s loving care - to rescue, feed and guide them.
 - We too need to be rescued from the danger and consequence of our sin by knowing the Lord’s loving kindness, forgiveness, protection, and guidance.
- **Sheep – Not a Flattering Comparison, BUT a True One - Consider: -**
 - **Weak** – unable to defend themselves, danger of attack by ravaging wolves.
 - **We are weak** – our souls are at the mercy of this world, and all its’ evil.
 - **Silly** - rather foolish – with little or no understanding of surrounding danger.
 - **We are silly** – we think we are OK without God. A false confidence in self.
 - Prone to **Wander** – away from safety – following their own selfish desires.
 - **We wander away** – rejecting the wise and loving care of our Creator God.
 - **Great Danger** – In the wilderness, away from the safety of the sheepfold.
 - **We are in great danger** – Eternal safety is only with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- **An Eastern Shepherd – A Beautiful Picture of The Saviour, Jesus Christ.**
 - **A Heart of Compassion** - A shepherd cares and searches for his lost sheep.
 - Jesus came from Heaven with great love to seek and to save lost souls.
 - **Risks Great Danger** – A shepherd would risk his life to rescue his sheep.
 - Jesus gave His life for sinners on Calvary as a ‘ransome for many.’
His death on Calvary fully paid the debt for our sin so that we can go free.
 - **Carries** – A shepherd would carry the rescued sheep safely on his shoulders.
 - Jesus gently bears us on His strong shoulders, carrying us back from danger to safety. *‘Underneath are His everlasting arms.’ Deuteronomy 33v37.*
 - **Celebrates** – A shepherd celebrates the rescue of his precious sheep.
 - Jesus has great joy when a sinner is saved, as do the angels in Heaven.
- **Will Heaven Rejoice Over Us? - A Sinner Saved by God’s Grace?**
 - The proud Religious Leaders were not saved as they did not see themselves as lost sheep needing the Lord Jesus as their Shepherd and Saviour.
 - Will we humbly accept that we are unworthy, headstrong sinners who can only be loved, and forgiven, by God because of the Lord Jesus’ sacrifice?
 - When we see the beauty of Christ and are humbled by our sin, repentance is not difficult. Put sinful pride to one side and humbly ask the Lord to ‘take us on His shoulders’ and ‘into His care and keeping.’ He will certainly save us.

Isaiah wrote, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” *Isaiah 53 v 6*