

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninetynine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?

⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'

⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Matthew 18:12-14

12 "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?

Matthew 18:12-14

¹³ And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.

Matthew 18:12-14

¹⁴ In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

THESE PARABLES IMPLY at LEAST TWO THINGS

1 DECISIVE ACTION

DILIGENT SEARCH

These parables (Lost Sheep/Wandering Sheep) imply:

1. Decisive Action

(an action or actions done quickly and with confidence.)

Ezekiel 34:11-12

For thus says the Lord God: "Indeed I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. 12 As a shepherd seeks out his flock on the day he is among his scattered sheep, so will I seek out My sheep and deliver them from all the places where they were scattered on a cloudy and dark day.

Luke 15:4

"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?"

Matthew 18:14

"In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little one should perish."

Matthew 9:12-13/Hosea 6:6

"On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. " But go and learn what this means: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 9:9-13/Mark 2:13-17Luke 5:27-32

(V9) As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow Me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. (v10) While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. (11) When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with the tax collectors and sinners?"

John 10:11

"I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays
down his life for the sheep."

John 10:14-15

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, (15) just as the Father knows me and I know the Father, and I lay down my life for the sheep."

John 10:16

"And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice."

These parables (Lost Sheep/Wandering Sheep) imply:

2. Diligent Search

God does not abandon his followers, but He zealously seeks the lost.

Luke 15:5-6

"(5) And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders (6) and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, "Rejoice with me: I have found my lost sheep."

Psalm 68:19-20

Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. ²⁰ Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign Lord comes escape from death.

Psalm 138:7

"Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me." (NIV)

Psalm 18:6

"But in my distress, I cried out to the Lord; yes, I prayed to my God for help. He heard me from sanctuary; my cry to him reached his ears." (NLT)

Psalm 50:15

"Pray to me in time of trouble. I will rescue you, and you will honor me." (CEV)

Matthew 11:29-30

²⁹ Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light." (NLT)

Psalm 55:22

"Give your burdens to the LORD, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall."(NLT)

Prayer of Surrender/Salvation

"Jesus, thank you for the cross. I am so sorry. I have hurt you. I repent of my sins and ask you to forgive me. Cleanse me with your blood and restore me into your love. I confess that you are now my Lord and Saviour. Fill me with the Holy Spirit and lead me each day. I surrender to your perfect will in my life from this day forward. I love you, Jesus. Thank you for your love. You are my Saviour, my Healer, my Baptizer of the Holy Spirit, and my Coming King. Come Lord, Jesus, come! Amen!