

The Lost Sheep

Luke 15:4-7

Sheep seem to crop up a lot in the Bible. The hills around Bethlehem had sheep grazing on them when Jesus was born - we know that from the nativity story – so everyone knew about sheep and using them to illustrate stories made a lot of sense. Jesus told a story about sheep when he wanted people to know about how important each person was in the eyes of God.

His story:

“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them — what do you do? You leave the other ninety nine sheep in the pasture and go looking for the one that got lost until you find it. When you find it, you are so happy that you put it on your shoulders and carry it back home. Then you call your friends and neighbours together and say to them, ‘I am so happy I found my lost sheep. Let us celebrate!’ In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety nine respectable people who do not need to repent.”

And everyone knew about money

“Suppose a woman who has ten silver coins loses one of them — what does she do? She lights a lamp, sweeps her house, and looks carefully everywhere until she finds it. When she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together, and says to them, ‘I am so happy I found the coin I lost. Let us celebrate!’ In the same way, I tell you, the angels of God rejoice over one sinner who repents.”

Do you think it was a bit risky to leave the 99 sheep on their own?

The 99 had each other and the shepherd would have known that he could trust them to look after each other.

The story of the lost coin is similar. Apart from loosing and finding, what else do the two stories have in common?

In both stories the owner is thankful and invites others to come and celebrate with them.

Song - Come on and celebrate

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kog4QkDT4Ho>

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for looking after each one of us day by day,
Especially when we wander from the pathway Jesus showed us.
We thank you for all the good things you do for us
and all the good things you give to us.
Lord, help us all to be bold in inviting others
to come and celebrate with us.
Amen