



April 21, 2024

You are Pursued

Luke 15:1-10 (NLT)-verses 3-7 listed

³So Jesus told them this story: *“If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. ⁶When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away!*

Summary:

Jesus often spoke in parables which felt like to many that he was talking in some sort of code. Jesus never intended to hide his wisdom or keep spiritual truth from the listeners. Rather, Jesus wanted people to lean into what he was communicating and think through what it meant for their own lives.

In today’s parable, Jesus tells the story of a shepherd leaving his flock of ninety-nine sheep to chase down one that had wandered off. Through the parable, Jesus gives a clear picture of God’s heart that relentlessly pursue those who don’t follow him.

Ice Breaker Questions:

1. Describe a time in your life that you weren’t actively following and living for God.
2. What enticed you to wander away from God?
3. Describe how you came/returned to God?

Scripture Study Questions:

1. What is the significance of Luke describing the reaction of the Pharisees and teachers of the law to Jesus associating with the “tax collectors and notorious sinners”?
2. Tell the story of the lost sheep in your own words.
3. How many times was a form of the word “joy” used in the parable? What was the context of each time it was used?
4. Some would say the shepherd was being irresponsible when he left the flock to find the one that had wandered away. What are your thoughts?
5. The parable of the lost coin has the same focus as the parable of the lost sheep. Why do you think Jesus chose to share them both to the audience?

Application Questions:

1. What did you personally take away from the passage?
2. What words could be used other than “relentlessly” to describe God’s pursuit of us?
3. Who are people in this world (past and present) that you find it difficult to really be glad that God pursues them?
4. Who are those in your life that you find it difficult to really be glad that God pursues them?
5. Who do you need to more intentionally pursue to be a living example of God’s love?