



**GREAT CHAPTERS FOR GREATER LIVING: LUKE 15**  
**“THE LOST SHEEP”**  
**LUKE 15:4-7**

AS WE LOOK AT THIS SIMPLE STORY WE NEED TO SEE OURSELVES IN THE STORY. AT ONE TIME EACH OF US WAS THE ONE SOUGHT. BUT IN GOD’S GREAT PLAN ONCE WE ARE FOUND THEN WE ARE TO BECOME A PART OF THE SEARCH FOR OTHERS.

**I. THE WANDERING SHEEP**

THIS IS A GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF US ALL.

**A. STRAYING.**

THE MOST NATURAL THING FOR A SHEEP TO DO IS TO STRAY. THEY WILL WANDER OFF FROM THE FLOCK WITHOUT ANY THOUGHT. THEY HAVE NO SENSE OF DIRECTION OR OF DANGER.

THIS IS TRUE OF MANY OF OUR FRIENDS—THEY WANDER OFF FROM GOD UNINTENTIONALLY. THEY BECOME INVOLVED IN THE ROUTINES OF LIFE AND SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY GOD GETS LEFT OUT.

**B. LOST.**

ONCE A SHEEP WANDERS OFF FAR ENOUGH, THEN THEY BECOME LOST. THEY HAVE NO ABILITY TO FIND THEIR WAY BACK TO THE SHEPHERD OR TO THE FLOCK. THIS IS WHY THE SHEPHERD GOES SEARCHING. THERE ARE PLENTY OF PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO ARE LOST, AND THEY CANNOT FIND THEIR WAY TO THE LORD WITHOUT SOME HELP FROM THE SHEPHERD OR FROM THOSE OF US WHO KNOW THE SHEPHERD.

**C. IN DANGER OF:**

- 1. THE LION---THE DEVIL.**
- 2. THE WOLVES---FALSE TEACHERS.**
- 3. THE STORM --GOD’S WRATH.**

**D. HELPLESS TO SAVE ITSELF.**

THE SHEEP IS HELPLESS TO SAVE ITSELF. IT CANNOT RUN VERY FAST, IT CANNOT DEFEND ITSELF, IT IS EASY PREY FOR AN ENEMY. WE ALL LIKE TO THINK ABOUT HOW SMART WE ARE OR WE LIKE TO THINK OF OUR ABILITIES, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO OUR ENEMIES, WE ARE JUST LIKE THE SHEEP—WE ARE HELPLESS APART FROM THE PROTECTION OF THE SHEPHERD.

**E. PERISHING.**

WHEN A SHEEP GETS LOST, AND REMAINS SO FOR A PERIOD OF TIME, THEN IT IS IN DANGER OF DYING. THE LONGER SOMEONE REMAINS IN A LOST CONDITION, THEIR SOULS ARE IN DANGER OF HELL.

**II. THE SEEKING SHEPHERD**

THE SHEPHERD LOVED THE SHEEP.

**A. THE SEARCH IS PERSONAL.**

THE SHEPHERD-OWNER DOES NOT SEND SOMEONE ELSE, A SERVANT OR A HIRED SERVANT. HE GOES HIMSELF IN SEARCH FOR THE LOST SHEEP. GOD HIMSELF GETS INVOLVED IN SEARCHING FOR THE ONE WHO IS LOST THROUGH US, HIS PEOPLE. THE SEARCH HAS TO BE PERSONAL TO BE EFFECTIVE.

**B. THE SEARCH IS A PRIORITY.**

EVEN THOUGH THE SHEPHERD LEFT THE 99, HE DID NOT LEAVE THEM UNPROTECTED BUT IN A SAFE PLACE. WHAT JESUS MEANT FOR US TO UNDERSTAND WAS THAT FINDING THE ONE LOST SHEEP WAS A PRIORITY FOR THE SHEPHERD. WHEN WE WERE LOST IT WAS GOD’S PRIORITY FOR US TO BE FOUND. DO WE HAVE A PRIORITY IN SEEKING AFTER THE LOST?

Presented by Dr. Jimmy Hilton

**SOUTH POINT  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

*Finding God's Direction for Life*



**C. THE SEARCH IS PERSISTENT.**

THERE IS GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT IN THE PHRASE THAT JESUS ADDED WHEN HE SAID, "...UNTIL HE FINDS IT." THE SHEPHERD WHO LOVES HIS SHEEP WILL NOT END HIS SEARCH UNTIL HE FINDS HIS SHEEP, WHETHER IT BE DEAD OR ALIVE. HE DOES NOT BECOME WEARY OR DISCOURAGED BECAUSE THE SEARCH MAY BECOME LONG. THE SHEEP IS TOO IMPORTANT FOR HIM.