

The Good Shepherd and His Sheep
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Have you ever lost something that really mattered to you? Maybe it was your keys, your wallet, or something with sentimental value. You search everywhere. You retrace your steps. You look in places you know it probably isn't. Why? Because you want it back.

Jesus tells us about something far more valuable than a lost possession—a lost sheep. A shepherd has one hundred sheep, but one wanders away. The shepherd doesn't simply say, "Well, I still have ninety-nine." He goes after the one that is lost. He searches until he finds it. And when he finds it, he rejoices. That is the heart of our God.

We are often tempted to think that God must be disappointed with us when we wander. And the truth is, we do wander. Sin pulls us away from God's Word. We become distracted by the things of this world. We make choices that put distance between ourselves and God. Sometimes we convince ourselves that we can find our own way.

The truth of God's word is this: before the Good Shepherd showed up, we were lost sheep. But notice what the Good Shepherd does. He doesn't wait for the sheep to find its way home. He goes looking for it. That is the Gospel. Jesus came looking for you!

Jesus didn't wait for you to become good enough or clean up your life. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. He went all the way to the cross, where He took the punishment our wandering deserved. Jesus carried our sin and guilt, died in our place, and rose again so that lost sinners could be brought home. The sheep doesn't rescue itself. The Shepherd does. And when the Good Shepherd finds His lost sheep, He rejoices.

Perhaps today you feel like that lost sheep. Maybe you've wandered spiritually, neglected God's Word, or allowed guilt to convince you that you've gone too far. Hear Jesus' words: "The Son of Man came to save the lost." That includes you. Jesus is still your Good Shepherd. Through His Word, He calls you home. Through His forgiveness, He restores you. Through His grace, Jesus brings you safely back into His flock.

So don't run away from the Shepherd because you are lost. Run toward Him because He is looking for you. And when He finds you, He doesn't say, "Where have you been?" He says, "Welcome home." The Good News is that while we were still a long way off, the Good Shepherd Jesus came running to find and rescue us! "For the Son of Man came to save the lost." — Matthew 18:11