

Context

- 1] Disciple – hate father, mother etc (14:26)
- 2] He who has ears to hear, let him hear (14:35)

Summary

As Jesus welcomed ‘sinners’, ‘righteous’ religious leaders muttered (1, 2).
He told a parable of the shepherd of 100 sheep, searching for a lost one then, on finding it, rejoicing with his friends (3-6)
In heaven, he said there will be more rejoicing over a repentant sinner than over 99 righteous people. (7)

Main Point God searches for and delights in repentant sinners

Key verse And when he finds (the lost sheep), he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home (5) OR
There will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous person who do not need to repent. (7)

??? Why does he not confront the Pharisees etc as hypocrites? (7)

Parable

God? The shepherd seeing the lost sheep
Us? The lost sheep
Subject? God searches out / welcomes / delights in repentant sinners

The audience (1, 2)

- 1] He who has ears, let him hear (14:35b)
- 2] Hearers – tax collectors and sinners (1)
 - a) who
 - 1) tax collectors – collaborators with Romans, very rich / unpopular
 - 2) Sinners – those who didn’t fulfil ‘the law’
 - a) immoral – prostitutes
 - b) illegal – shepherds couldn’t observe Sabbath
 - b) what
 - 1) all of them

Nb together / as one

- 2) gathering round / drawing near

nb enthusiastic / willing to receive

*Jesus attracts ‘sinners’

Jesus welcomes ‘sinners’*

- 3] Non - hearers - the Pharisees and teachers of the Law (2)
 - a) Muttered – *lit* ‘greatly / murmured’.

Nb Those confident of their own righteousness (18:9)

Jews unwilling to associate with Gentiles / the ungodly (Acts10:28)

b) Welcomes and eats with them

ie not just eat food, but acknowledges and accepts

nb Jesus ate with / accepted sinners (Luke 3:12;5:29-30;7:29ff; 19:5-7)

nb Levi, tax collector called to follow Jesus (5:27) / - an Apostle? - Matthew (9:10)

Do not 'judge' those who God welcomes

Do not judge or you too will be judged (Mt7:1)

Parable (3 – 6)

1] This parable

Nb singular but goes on to tell another two - lost coin (15:8), lost son (15:11)

2] Suppose

Cf (11:11; 12:25; 14:28; 17:7) ie 'can you imagine that...'

3] One of you (Pharisees) a shepherd!

Cf Royalty – suppose a plumber?!

3] A hundred sheep –

a) lose one

b) leaves 99 to find it

? risk all for the one?

Cf Psalm 119:176; Ezekiel 34:11-16; Is 40:11; Luke 19:10; Matthew 15:24

Nb The Good Shepherd Jesus - see John 10 eg v 10-14.

GGG God searches for His lost sheep

4] Result - Joyfully, returns home, sheep on shoulders, friends and neighbours – rejoice with me.

Application (7)

1] In the same way / 'thus'

2] More rejoicing over one repentant sinner than 99 righteous who do not need to repent.

Nb the focus is on the repentant sinners NOT the 'righteous' Pharisees

Cf Doctor for healthy? Not call the righteous to repent. (5:32)

Nb Excluded – gentiles (7:9); women (7:37), children, (7;11) the poor (7:22).

God delights in repentant 'sinners'

God is prepared to leave us in self-delusions of righteousness