

**Sermon Text:** Luke 15:1-7**Sermon Title:** More Joy in Heaven**Main Idea:**

In this passage, Jesus tells the parable of the lost sheep to the Pharisees and scribes who are grumbling that he eats with sinners. The Pharisees are acting as if salvation comes to those who properly keep their laws and rituals and demonstrate that they are worthy. But Jesus shows that God rejoices more over one repentant sinner than ninety-nine righteous people. Jesus, the good shepherd, went after the lost sheep while the Pharisees stayed with the ninety-nine. The Pharisees failed to understand God's grace and joy in saving sinners through faith in Christ alone. Do we?

**Discussion Questions:**

- This seems like a simple parable, so why are we going through it so slowly?
- Who is the audience for this parable? (Hint, there's more than one.)
- What does this parable have to do with what is happening at that moment in Jesus' ministry?
- Where is Luke 15 going? In other words, Jesus is responding to the Pharisees and what is he doing by the end of this chapter?
- How does the parable of the lost sheep challenge the religious leaders' view of righteousness?
- In what ways does the concept of God actively seeking out the lost differ from the Pharisees' approach to those they deemed unclean or unworthy?
- What passages from the Old Testament can inform our understanding of the parable of the Lost Sheep? How do they do so?
- What does Jesus' reaction to finding the lost sheep (rejoicing and celebration) teach us about God's character?
- Why do you think Jesus compares the one sinner who repents to ninety-nine righteous persons who "need no repentance"?
- How should the Pharisees and scribes have responded to Jesus' association with sinners?
- What does this story tell us about what God wants from us?
- If we believed that, how might that impact our attitude towards ourselves and others?
- What do the following passages have to do with this parable - Romans 3:19-25 and Galatians 2:15-21?

**Sermon Notes:** This is a place you can record your own notes and thoughts as you listen to the message today so that you can think about them later.