

“A Search & Rescue Mission”

Based on Luke 15:1-7 (NIV)

Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

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Luke 15:1-2

1 Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him (Jesus).

2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

† **The religious leaders did not want sinners to be saved from their sins, they wanted them destroyed, so the sin would be destroyed if the sinner was.**

† **Jesus is calling people to "love the sinner but hate the sin."**

Luke 15:3-6

3 Then Jesus told them this parable:

4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?

5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders

6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors

together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'

† **The shepherd, each night, would count the sheep and see if they were all together.**

† **Sheep become lost, little by little, as they move away from the flock looking for more food to eat.**

† **I do not turn from God all at once. Little by little, I move away from the flock, from the church or my family, looking for more for myself.**

† **I wander away, often without even knowing it.**

Luke 15:7 - I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

† **God does not give up on me!**

† **There is always rejoicing in heaven when I follow God's will.**

† **There are lost “sheep” (people) who I know, who have wandered away from God.**

† **What is God calling me to do to rescue them?**

Applying Today's Message to My Life:

† When have I wandered away and got lost?

† When have I wandered away from God or from my family, maybe not even realizing it?

† Who (or what) brought me back to the flock?

† Who is someone I know who is lost in their faith?
- How is God calling me to be their shepherd to bring them back to their flock?