

Sermon Notes

Insights from Luke

#59 – “The Loving Shepherd Always Seeks After the Lost Sheep”

– Luke 15:1-7

I. Introduction

A. The ancient metaphor of the shepherd caring for his sheep is embedded in the Old Testament.

1. Psalm 23:1, Psalm 80:1,3
2. Emphasized by the prophet – Isaiah 40:11

B. Israel’s shepherds were poor examples.

1. Jeremiah 23:2
2. *Corrective Church Discipline* by Pastor Don

C. Luke 15

1. Three stories of something lost – a search is initiated and there is joy when it is found.

D. Today’s Text: Luke 15:1-7

II. Exposition

A. Luke 15:1-2

1. Tax collectors – notorious and hated.
2. Sinners – irreligious, non-practicing Jews.
3. The Pharisees – They would have nothing to do with either group.

B. Luke 15:3

1. Note singular “this parable.”
 - a. All three stories have a common emphasis.

C. Luke 15:4

1. Shepherds losing sheep would be bad business.

D. Luke 15:5

1. Locating and bring home are two different things.
2. An arduous task for a shepherd.

3. Fulfilled in the Great Shepherd – Ps. 28:9; Eze. 34:16

4. Is the metaphor of the shepherd’s sheep a reference to the household of faith or the lost outside the church?

a. Can apply to both.

5. Rejoicing over what is found.

E. Luke 15:6

1. Joy so great, he tells others.
2. Pastor Don’s testimony.

F. Luke 15:7

1. All need to repent – Romans 3:12

III. Points for Reflection.

A. Shepherding involves nurture and comfort as well as correction and rebuke when needed.

1. Eze. 34:11-12; Jer. 23:3,5; Fulfilled in Christ: John 10:11,27; Ps. 23:4c, Heb. 12:4-13
2. Same is true of human shepherds – Eze. 34:4
 - a. *Corrective Church Discipline* – Pastor Don
3. A word to the next generation of elders – I Peter 5:1-4

B. How wonderful to see the saving initiative of God.

1. Old Testament understanding.
2. The Bible commands repentance.
 - a. Acts 17:30; II Tim. 2:24-26

C. We were all lost sheep and Jesus came to find us and bring us home. In the process, we learned to recognize His voice.

1. Isa. 53:6; Eze. 34:11; John 10:3-5, 14, 26-27

D. When you are weary from all that is in the world and exhausted with the battle over sin still present in your heart, remember that Jesus will bring you home.

1. The earliest statue depicting the work of Christ.
 - a. Lateran Museum.