

“Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...” - 1 Cor 15:58

NORTHSIDE EXHORTER

A Teaching Bulletin to Inform & Edify God's Family at Northside

1513 W. Rollercoaster Rd. Tucson, AZ 85704

www.northside-churchofChrist.com

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“Our Importance To God” – Luke 15:1-7

Everyone likes to feel important & wanted. So, how important are we to God? Let us notice how important this one sheep was.

The shepherd of the flock considered losing this one sheep a loss. Losing things of no value is not considered a loss & has little effect on us. Oftentimes, a penny in a parking lot is ignored. However, if we were to lose valuable items such as our health, a loved one, &/or our employment, then this would greatly affect us. The shepherd was concerned over the loss of his sheep. He did not stop until he had found the lost sheep.

In this parable, the shepherd came to a point in his journey he was able to rejoice. Why did the shepherd rejoice? There are three reasons why the shepherd rejoiced.

- 1) Something important had been recovered for he found his lost sheep.
- 2) His labor was not in vain, for his efforts had been rewarded in the finding of his lost sheep.
- 3) He had fulfilled his responsibility, for he was the keeper of the sheep & it was his charge to protect & not lose any of his flock.

How do we apply this parable in the 21st century? This parable answers the question, “How important are we to God?” Individuals have always mattered to God. Oftentimes, Jesus dealt with one person in the crowd.

- In **Luke 19:1-5**, Jesus only dealt with Zacchaeus.
- In **Mark 10:46-20**, Jesus only dealt with Blind Bartimaeus.
- In **Matthew 9:20-22**, Jesus only dealt with the woman who had an issue of blood for 12 years.

Special efforts were even made to reach one person with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- God caused Peter to make an effort to convert Cornelius in (**Acts 10**).
- God caused Christ to make an effort to convert Paul (**Acts 9**).
- God caused Philip to make an effort to convert the Ethiopian Eunuch (**Acts 8:26-40**).

This is all because these individuals were important to God.

How do we know whether or not God cares about us? We know God cares about us by what He did for us (**John 3:16**). We know God cares about us by what He has promised us (**John 6:37**).

If we are still in doubt as to whether or not we are important to God, then how should we respond to such concern?

- We should respond to such a concern by inviting Christ into our lives, then we will know how important we are to Him (**Revelation 3:20**).
- We should respond to such a concern by loving Christ, then we will know how important we are to Him (**1 John 4:19**).
- We should respond to such a concern by giving God a chance, then we will know how important we are to Him (**Psalms 34:8**).

We are very important to God. The question we need to ask ourselves is, “Do we value ourselves enough to accept the care & nurture of our Lord?”

- *Antoine N. Holloway*