



# SEEKING THE LOST

A Study of the Lord's Parables in Luke 15-16

Class I    A Lost Sheep and a Lost Coin    Luke 15:1-10







Chickpea











Christadelphian Heritage School 2013-14





# WHY PARABLES?







Studying the parables is an opportunity to study something special.

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Matthew 13:10-13

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Matthew 13:10-13

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I - Want to know

# WHY PARABLES?







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Matthew 13:10-13

There are two groups of people.

- 1 - Want to know
- 2 - Don't care

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# WHY PARABLES?

The disciples were the first group:







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Matthew 13:10-13

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# WHY PARABLES?

The disciples were the first group:

Matthew 13:36







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Matthew 13:10-13

There are two groups of people.

- 1 - Want to know
- 2 - Don't care

# WHY PARABLES?

The disciples were the first group:

Matthew 13:36

And so the Lord expounded to them.







GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Three principles that will lead our studies.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES



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I. Scripture gives details



GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Three principles that will lead our studies.

1. Scripture gives details

2. Ask "why?"



GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Three principles that will lead our studies.

1. Scripture gives details

2. Ask “why?”

“Investigate everything you believe: if it is the truth, it cannot be injured thereby; if error, the sooner it is corrected the better... Never be afraid of results to which you may be driven by your investigations, as this will inevitably bias your mind and disqualify you to arrive at ultimate truth.” - Brother John Thomas; Herald of the Kingdom Age to Come (1859)

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Three principles that will lead our studies.

1. Scripture gives details
2. Ask “why?”
3. Details lay the foundation for principles



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES





# SERIES OUTLINE



I - A Lost Sheep and a Lost Coin

# SERIES OUTLINE





I - A Lost Sheep and a Lost Coin

Luke 15:1-10

# SERIES OUTLINE





1 - A Lost Sheep and a Lost Coin

Luke 15:1-10

2 - The Lost Sons

# SERIES OUTLINE





1 - A Lost Sheep and a Lost Coin

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Luke 15:11-32

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Exhort - The Good Samaritan

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# SERIES OUTLINE

Goals: to unveil the Lord's parables, see how he sought after the lost, and reveal a group of people whom we might not always see as "lost."



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Luke 15:1-10

2 - The Lost Sons

Luke 15:11-32

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Surface Level



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# CLASS OUTLINE

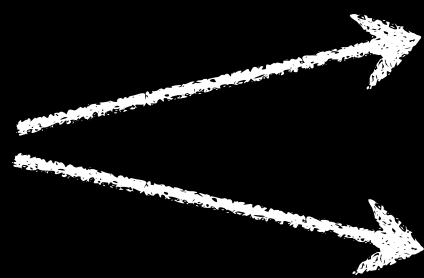
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Surface Level

Deeper Meaning





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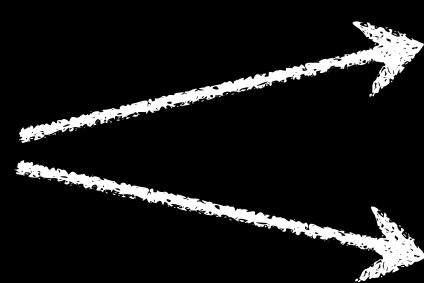
Goals: to understand the *purpose* of these two parables, and to recognize how they should affect our “seeking of the lost.”

# CLASS OUTLINE

1 - Background

2 - The Lost Sheep

3 - The Lost Coin



Surface Level

Deeper Meaning





BACKGROUND



Luke 14:25-26



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Luke 14:25-26



“hate not his father...”



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Luke 14:25-26



“hate not his father...”

That's how great the love needed to be!

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Matthew 12:48-50

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John 2:3-4

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Luke 14:27-30

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Matthew 12:48-50      John 2:3-4

Luke 14:27-30

Discipleship would have *huge* costs.

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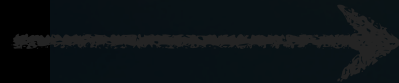
Luke 14:33-35

“cannot be my disciple”

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So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

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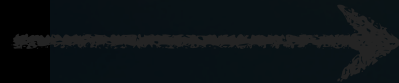
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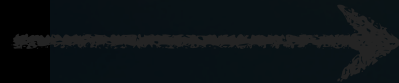
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Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him.

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BACKGROUND





PUBLICANS AND SINNERS



To realize the power of this, consider who these people were.

# PUBLICANS AND SINNERS



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Publican

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# PUBLICANS AND SINNERS

Luke 3:12-13

Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.



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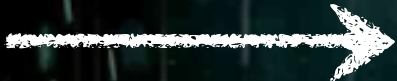
# PUBLICANS AND SINNERS

These people were known as unscrupulous cheaters and thieves!



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# PUBLICANS AND SINNERS

Matthew 5:46-47

For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?



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# PUBLICANS AND SINNERS

Luke 18:13

And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.



And the sinners were even worse.

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Matthew 21:31-32

Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They said unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

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“PUBLICANS AND SINNERS”

WERE PROBABLY

“PUBLICANS AND HARLOTS.”

harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.



# DISGUST





Just try to picture the scene!

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Luke 15:2

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The scribes and Pharisees thought that these kind of people should be totally avoided!





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Luke 15:2

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The scribes and Pharisees thought that these kind of people should be totally avoided!

Isaiah 65:5

Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou. These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day.





Just try to picture the scene!

Luke 15:2

# DISGUST

The scribes and Pharisees thought that these kind of people should be totally avoided!

Luke 7:39

Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner





Just try to picture the scene!

Luke 15:2

# DISGUST

For the scribes and pharisees, these were people who were “unholy” and who should be avoided.





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Luke 15:2

They didn't realize that they too were sinners!

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Matthew 26:43

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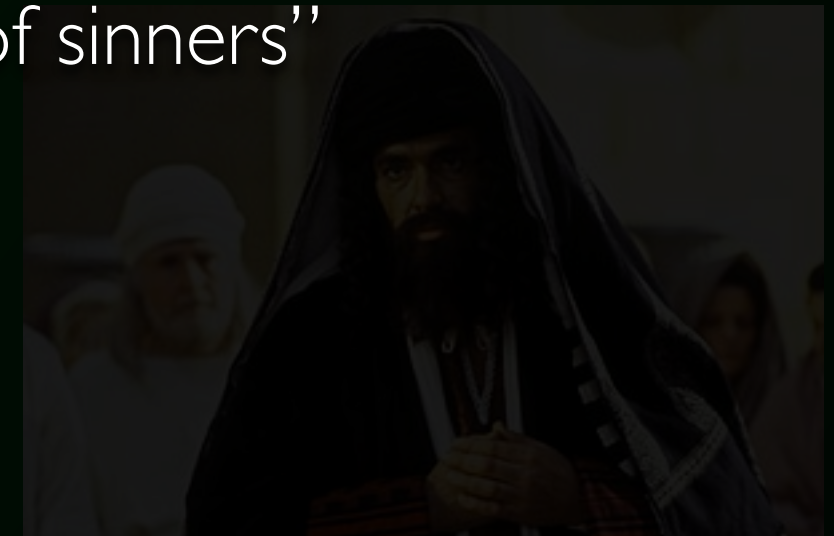
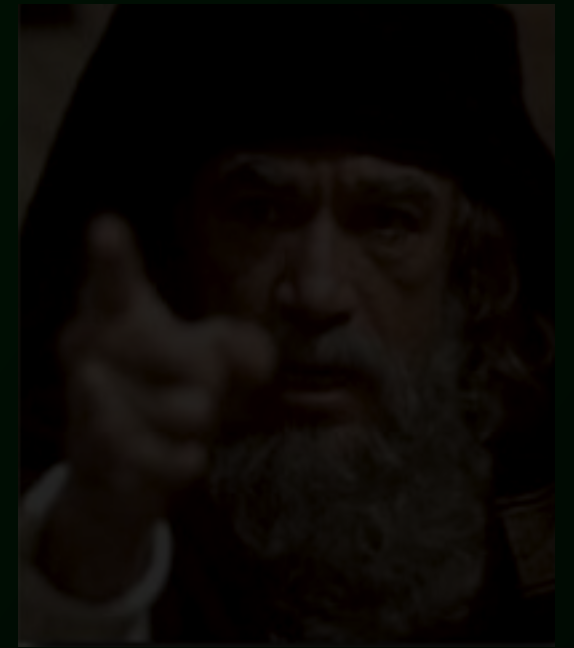
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“into the hands of sinners”

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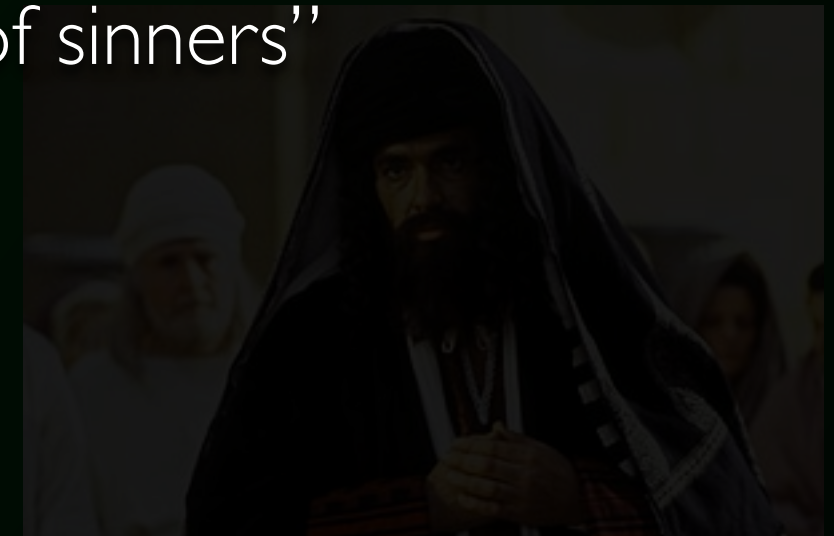
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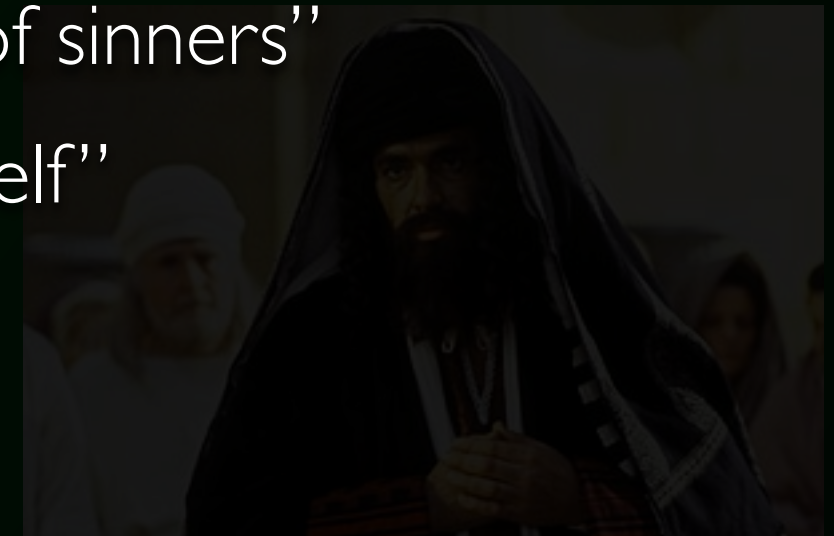
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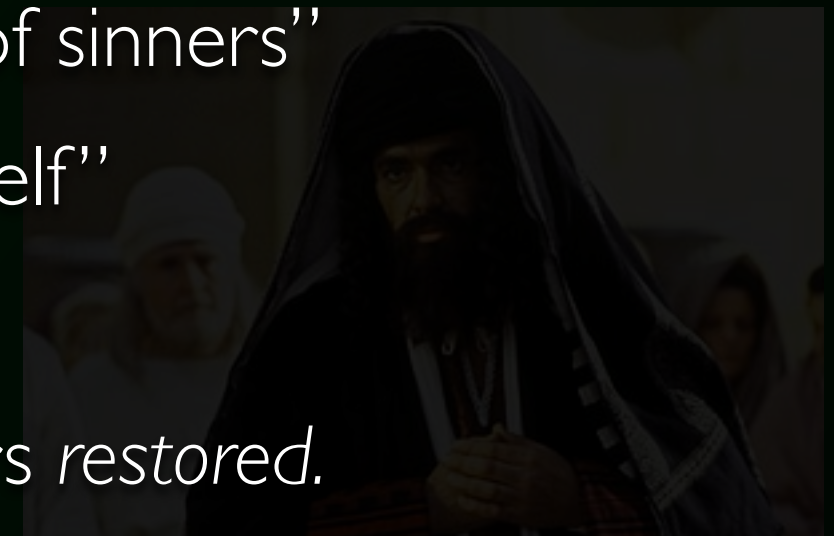
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"sinners against himself"

And, they didn't recognize that God wanted sinners *restored*.

For the scribes and pharisees, these were people who were "unholy" and who should be avoided.





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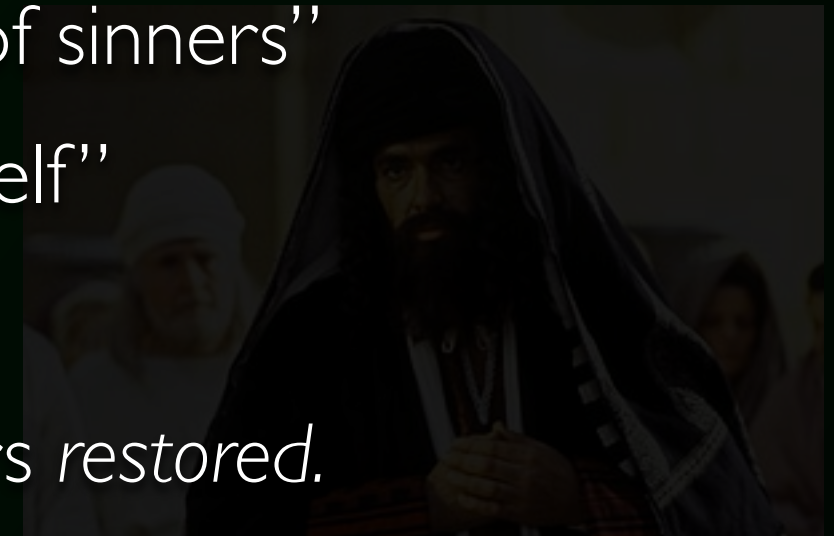


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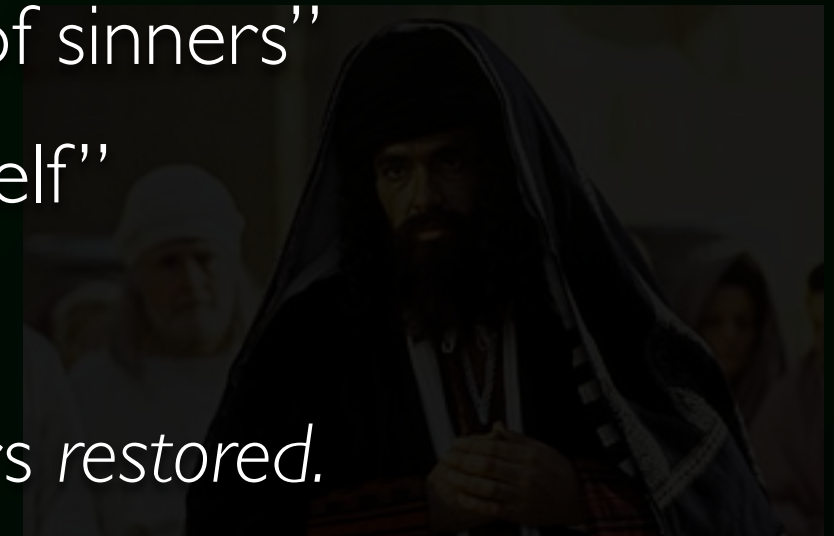
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Psalms 51:12-13 → "teach transgressors"

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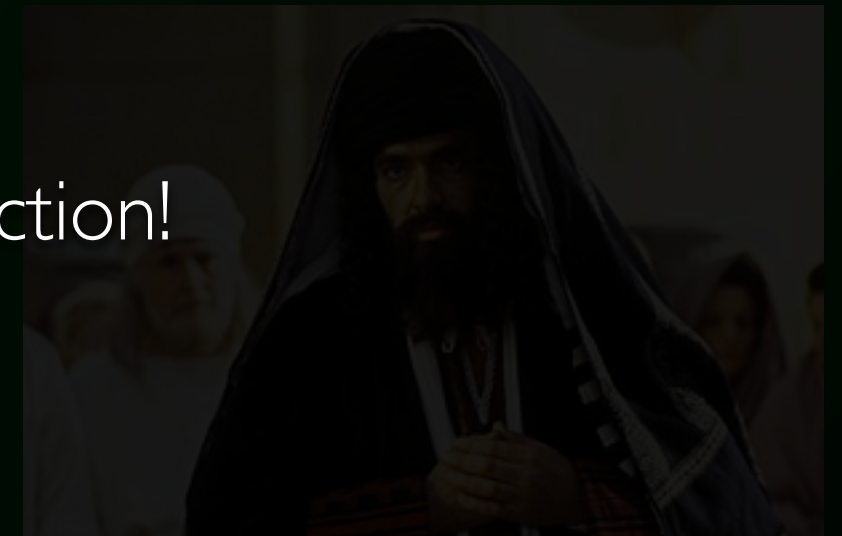
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Luke 15:2

# DISGUST

These parables were told as a response to their reaction!

For the scribes and pharisees, these were people who were “unholy” and who should be avoided.







LOST SHEEP



Luke 15:4



LOST SHEEP



Luke 15:4 posed a question to the scribes and pharisees



LOST SHEEP



Luke 15:4 posed a question to the scribes and pharisees

Luke 15:5

LOST SHEEP





Luke 15:4 posed a question to the scribes and pharisees

Luke 15:5 actually put the sheep on his shoulders

LOST SHEEP





Luke 15:4 posed a question to the scribes and pharisees

Luke 15:5 actually put the sheep on his shoulders

Luke 15:6



LOST SHEEP



Luke 15:4 posed a question to the scribes and pharisees

Luke 15:5 actually put the sheep on his shoulders

Luke 15:6 so excited that he had a celebration!



LOST SHEEP



Luke 15:4 posed a question to the scribes and pharisees

Luke 15:5 actually put the sheep on his shoulders

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LOST SHEEP





# LOST COIN





# LOST COIN

She was just like the shepherd.





# LOST COIN

She was just like the shepherd.

Luke 15:8





# LOST COIN

She was just like the shepherd.

Luke 15:8     *until she found it*





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She was just like the shepherd.

Luke 15:8      *until she found it*

Luke 15:9





# LOST COIN

She was just like the shepherd.

Luke 15:8      *until she found it*

Luke 15:9      hosted a celebration





# LOST COIN

“pieces of silver”





# LOST COIN

“pieces of silver” =





# LOST COIN

“pieces of silver” = G1406



# LOST COIN

“pieces of silver” = G1406 *drachma*



# LOST COIN

“pieces of silver” = 6400 *drachma*

“The basic Greek coins as the drachma, roughly equivalent to a Roman denarius, or one day’s wages.” *Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary*;  
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Luke 15:10





GOING DEEPER



The scribes and pharisees had two major issues.

# GOING DEEPER

A photograph of several open books on a wooden surface, with stacks of closed books in the background. The text "GOING DEEPER" is overlaid in white.



The scribes and pharisees had two major issues.

1 - They didn't realize that they too were sinners!

GOING DEEPER

A photograph of several open books on a wooden surface, with stacks of closed books in the background. The text "GOING DEEPER" is overlaid in white, serif font.



The scribes and pharisees had two major issues.

1 - They didn't realize that they too were sinners!

2 - And, they didn't recognize that God wanted sinners *restored*.

GOING DEEPER

The background of the slide is a photograph of a stack of books. In the foreground, an open book with a red cover is lying flat on a wooden surface. The pages are yellowed with age. Behind it, several other books are stacked, some with green covers. The lighting is soft, creating a warm, scholarly atmosphere.



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Thus, the Lord's parables dealt with these head on.



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2 - And he explained that he had come to *save* the lost!



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## GOING DEEPER

Thus, each of the parables about seeking and finding were centered around the Lord Jesus and his work of saving!

Thus, the Lord's parables dealt with these head on.

1 - He showed that they were living in sin.

2 - And he explained that he had come to *save* the lost!



A white lamb is sitting in a lush green field. In the background, there is a stone wall and rolling hills. The scene is peaceful and natural.

# THE GOOD SHEPHERD



Earlier in his ministry, the Lord had already declared himself to be the  
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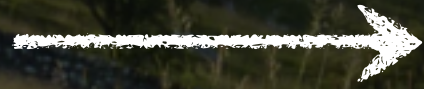
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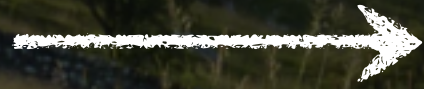
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A white sheep is sitting in a lush green field. In the background, there is a stone wall and rolling hills under a clear sky. The sheep is looking towards the right of the frame.



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And what was the world like?  
He would know the name of every animal that left and he would have known its name!

Galatians 2:14-15

But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles...

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# RESTORATION





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Luke 14:26-27, 33

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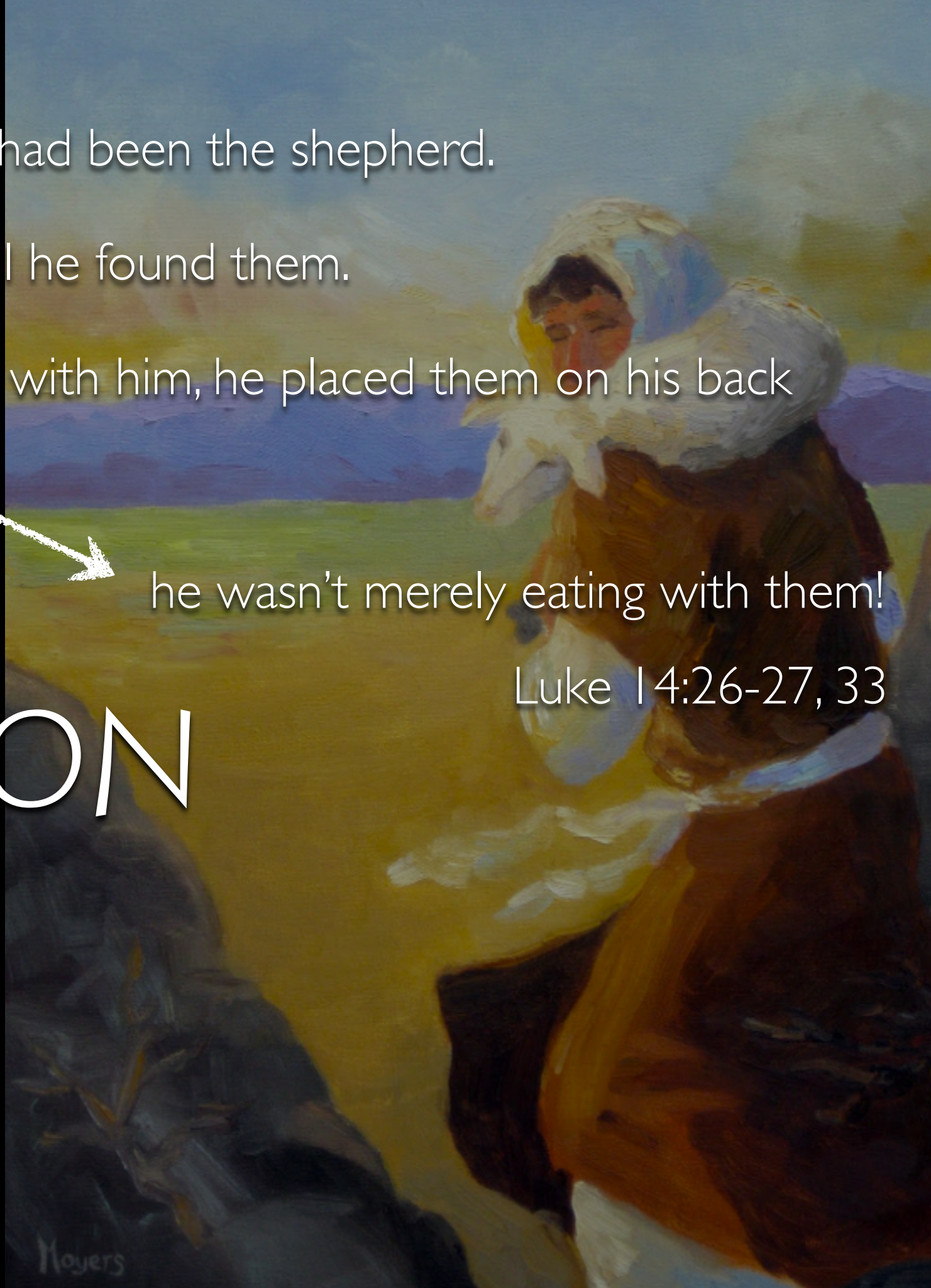


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Those who came to him would have to make sacrifices, but the yoke would be easy and they would have help!



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But, there was still more to the parable.

Luke 14:26-27, 33

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LEAVING THE 99

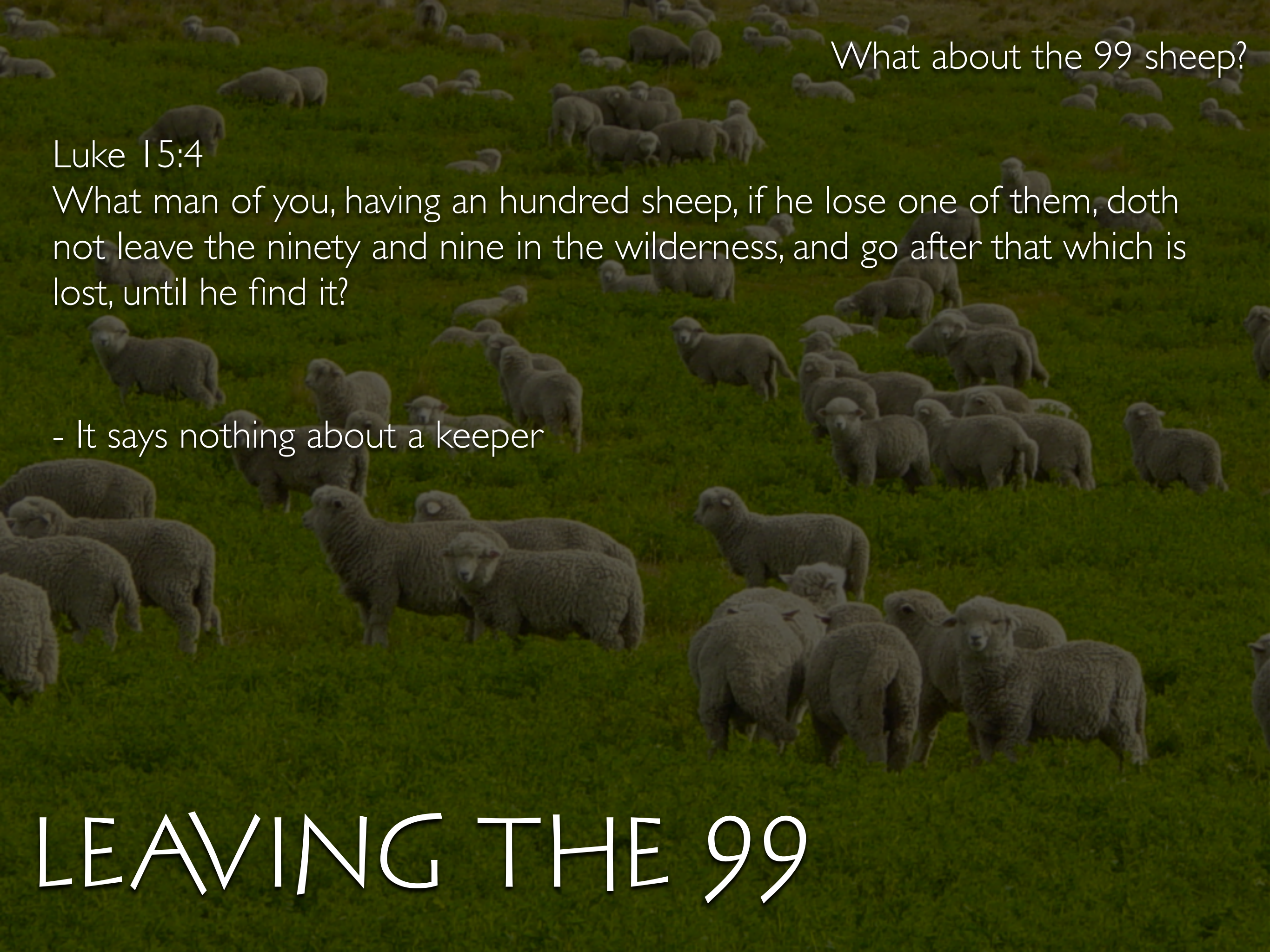


A large flock of sheep is scattered across a lush green field. The sheep are of various shades of grey and white, and they are in various poses, some standing, some grazing, and some resting. The field is vibrant green, and the overall scene is peaceful and pastoral.

What about the 99 sheep?

LEAVING THE 99



A large flock of sheep is grazing in a lush green field. The sheep are scattered across the frame, some standing and some lying down. The background is a soft-focus green field with more sheep in the distance.

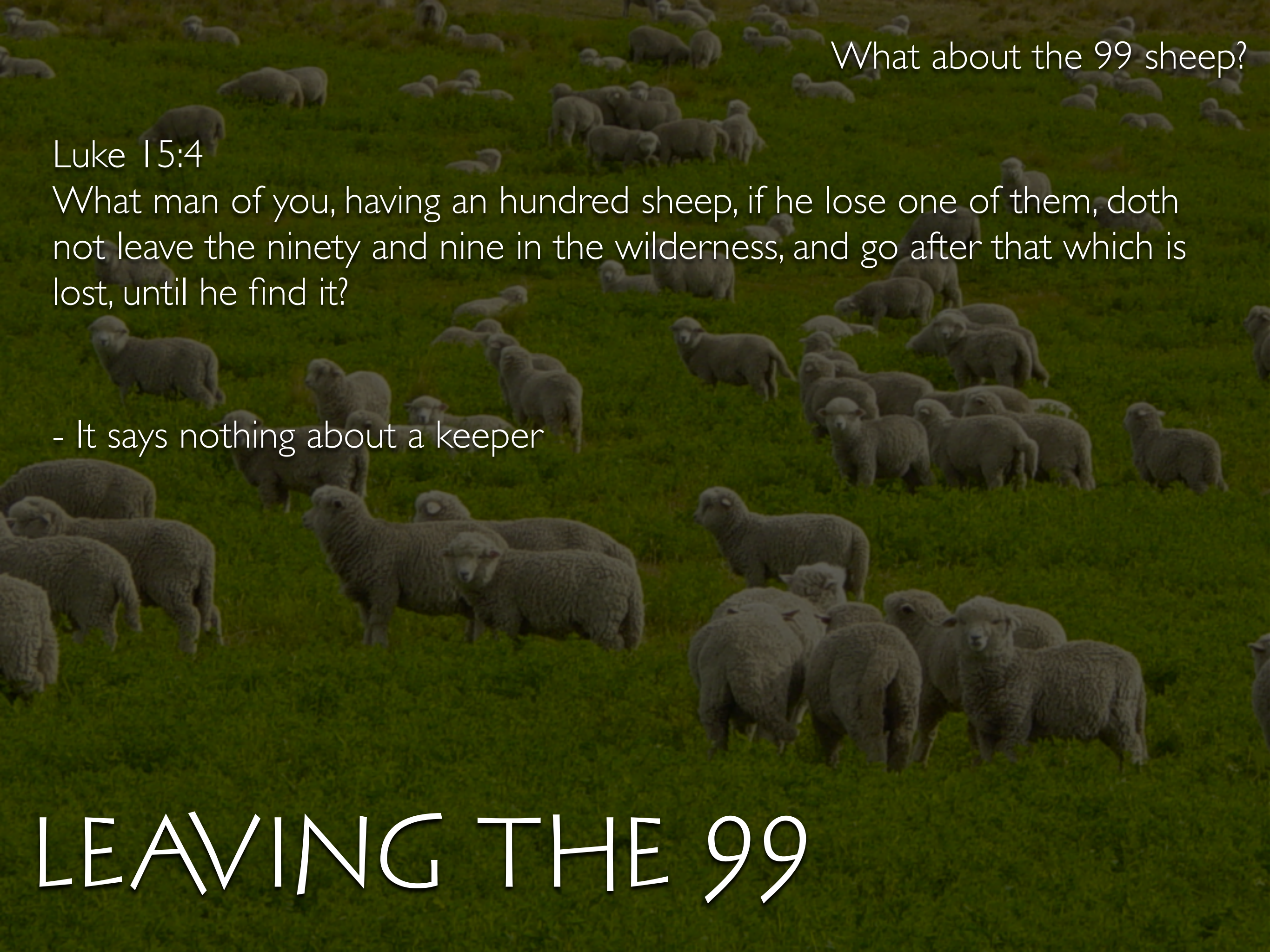
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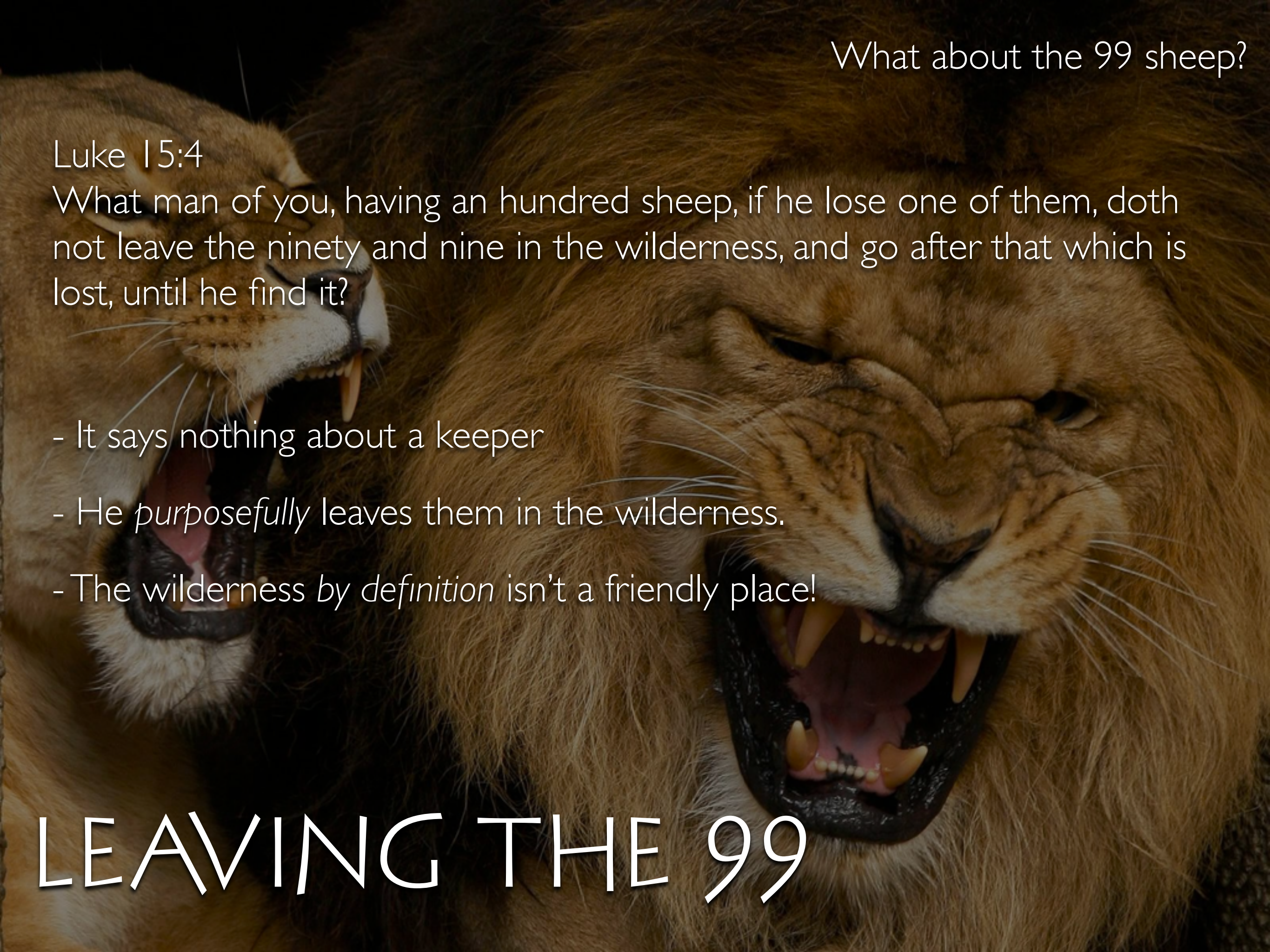
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# LEAVING THE 99



A close-up photograph of two lions roaring. The lion on the right is in the foreground, its mouth wide open, showing its teeth and tongue. The lion on the left is slightly behind and to the side, also roaring. The background is dark, making the golden-brown fur of the lions stand out.

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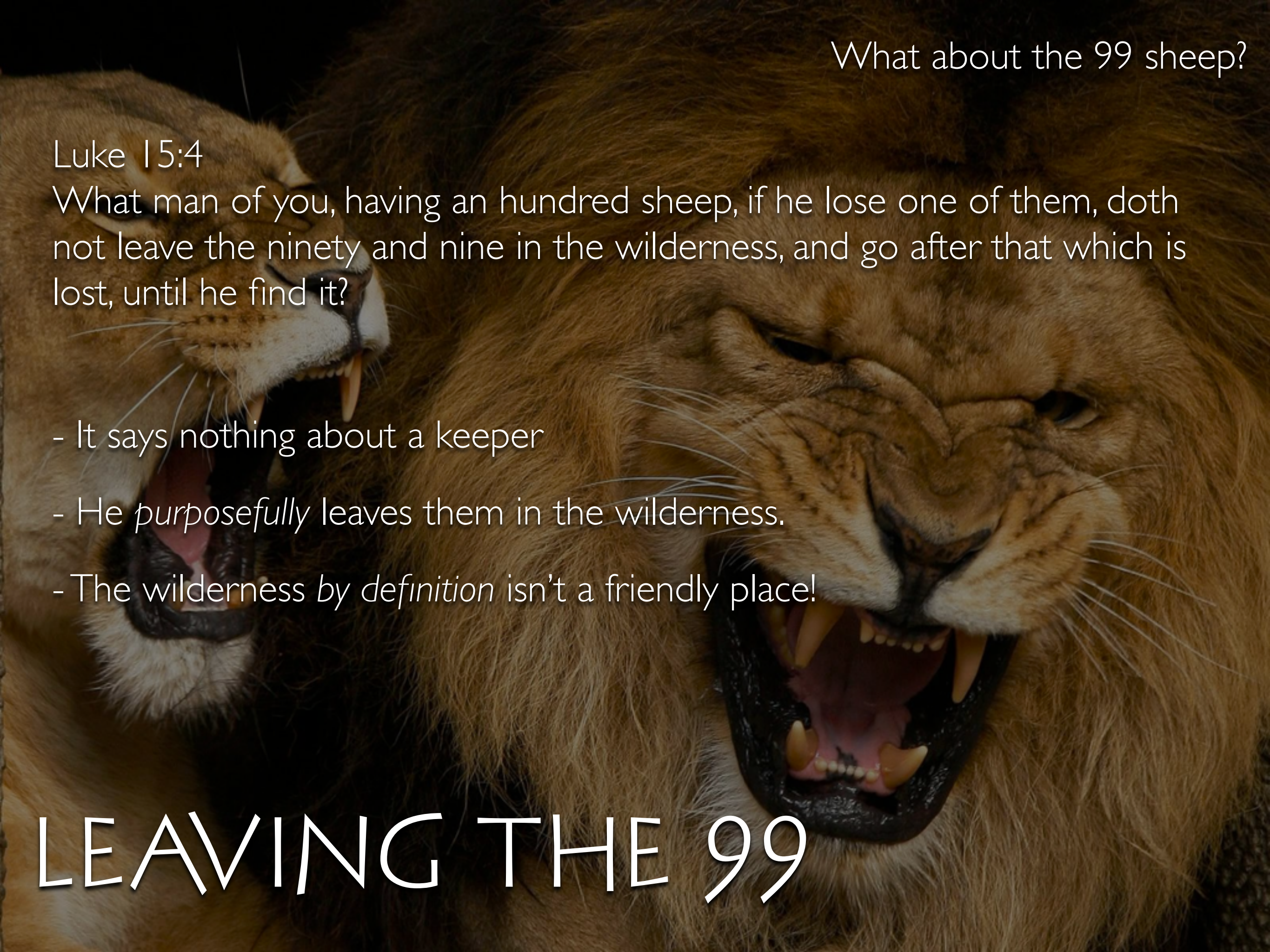
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- The wilderness *by definition* isn't a friendly place!

LEAVING THE 99



A close-up photograph of two lions roaring. The lion on the right is in the foreground, its mouth wide open, showing its sharp teeth and pink tongue. The lion on the left is slightly behind and to the side, also roaring. The background is dark, making the golden-brown fur of the lions stand out.

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Doesn't that seem negligent?

# LEAVING THE 99



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...FINDING THE 99



So, there must be something that we're missing. What about the 99 sheep?

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I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

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Ecclesiastes 7:20

- The wilderness by definition isn't a friendly place!  
For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

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LEAVING THE 99



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Luke 13:4-5

- The wilderness by definition isn't a friendly place!  
Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

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But, there are people who *think* they need no repentance—who think they don't need help.

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*both needed to be justified!*

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And that's exactly how the Lord described the Pharisees!

Luke 18:10-14



*both needed to be justified!*  
*but only one realized it!*



What about the 99 sheep?

Luke 15:4

What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

Matthew 9:11-13

And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

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LEAVING THE 99



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Doesn't that seem negligent?

Instead, this is how they saw themselves!

LEAVING THE 99



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- It says nothing about a keeper!  
These prideful sheep would be left to die in the wilderness!

- He *purposefully* leaves them in the wilderness.
- The wilderness *by definition* isn't a friendly place!

Doesn't that seem negligent?

LEAVING THE 99



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What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

These prideful sheep would be left to die in the wilderness!

On the other hand, the repentant sheep would be brought into the house.

- The wilderness *by definition* isn't a friendly place!

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LEAVING THE 99





# JOY IN HEAVEN



For all of those who were willing to repent, there would be joy in heaven!

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# JOY IN HEAVEN

1 - They didn't realize that they were sinners.

2 - They didn't recognize that God wanted sinners restored.

This parable demonstrated that they too were lost and that the Lord's whole life was dedicated to bringing back the lost!



For all of those who were willing to repent, there would be joy in heaven!

Thus, the Lord Jesus addressed the Pharisees' two issues.

# JOY IN HEAVEN

He would demonstrate the same two things in the parable of the lost coin—but the message would be even more poignant.





# THE WOMAN



At first, it might seem odd to say that the woman represents the Lord.

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○ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!



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Even more, consider some of these reasons: woman represents the Lord.

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1 - Contextually, the parables are an answer to the Pharisees regarding the Lord's actions.

2 - In the parable of the lost sons, the father would seem to represent either God or Christ. Why break the parallelism in the middle?

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O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!



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3 - As we will see later, each of these parables represents a different scenario. Why would Christ say that he wasn't involved in this one?

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"like a travailing woman"

Isaiah 66:13



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# SILVER COINS




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For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us, as silver is tried.



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Jeremiah 6:26, 30

O daughter of my people, gird thee with sackcloth, and wallow thyself in ashes: make thee mourning, as for an only son, most bitter lamentation: for the spoiler shall suddenly come upon us...reprobate silver shall men call them, because the LORD hath rejected them.



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And, these coins were *inside* the house.

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But it was a sinner inside the ecclesia.



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This wouldn't have been the publicans and harlots.



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So who were the sinners that were lost *inside* the house?



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# SEARCHING







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The Lord would light a lamp.





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lamp





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The Lord would light a lamp.

lamp =



# SEARCHING



The Lord would light a lamp.

lamp = Word of God



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The Lord would light a lamp.

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Psalm 119:105



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Psalm 119:105

Proverbs 6:23



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The Lord would light a lamp.

lamp = Word of God

Psalm 119:105

Proverbs 6:23

Thus, he would use Scripture.





# SEARCHING



Luke 16:29-31

Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead.



# SEARCHING



John 5:39

Search the scriptures; for in them  
ye think ye have eternal life: and  
they are they which testify of me.



Sweeping doesn't appear often.



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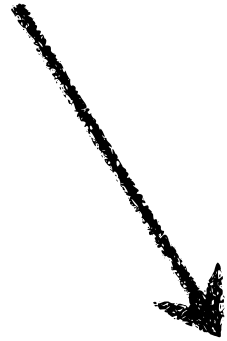
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“besom of destruction”



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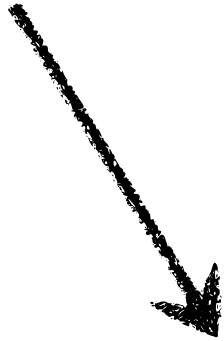
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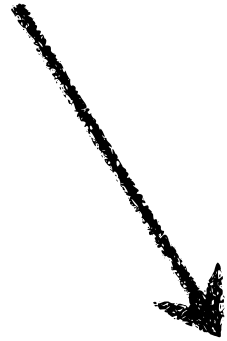
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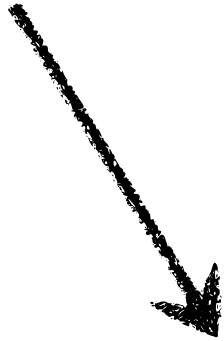
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“besom of destruction”

In order to *find* them, the Lord would use Scripture and would sometimes use scathing words.

sweeping isn't gentle

Matthew 23:13-15

John 5:42

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JOY IN HEAVEN



But, for those who were willing to put aside their pride, there would be joy in heaven.



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And so, the Lord again addressed the Pharisees' issues:



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And so, the Lord again addressed the Pharisees' issues:

1 - They didn't realize that they were sinners.



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*They were the sinners.*

*They were the ones who needed to be found.*



LIKE CHRIST





The beautiful thing about these parables is that they also apply to us!


LIKE CHRIST





The beautiful thing about these parables is that they also apply to us!

A shepherd



LIKE CHRIST



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A shepherd → John 21:15

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John 21:15

1 Peter 5:1-2

LIKE CHRIST





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A shepherd → John 21:15    1 Peter 5:1-2

And we shepherd *his flock!*

LIKE CHRIST





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And we shepherd *his flock!*    1 Peter 5:3-4

LIKE CHRIST





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And we shepherd *his flock!*    1 Peter 5:3-4    “the chief Shepherd”

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- our responsibility?

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A shepherd → John 21:15 1 Peter 5:1-2

## 1 - Lost sheep

And we shepherd *his flock!* 1 Peter 5:3-4 "the chief Shepherd"

- wandered away from the ecclesia

- we seek *until* they are brought back

- we seek like Christ! John 1:14 John 5:19

- we put them on our shoulders and offer support

## 2 - Lost coin

- lost within the ecclesia

- we seek *until* they are brought back

- our responsibility? Luke 15:8-9 "which I had lost"

A woman → 2 Corinthians 11:1-2 Ephesians 5:24-25

In these parables, the Lord Jesus gave us an example.

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The beautiful thing about these parables is that they also apply to us!

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And we shepherd *his flock!* 1 Peter 5:3-4 “the chief Shepherd”

LIKE CHRIST

WE NEVER GIVE UP.

A woman → 2 Corinthians 11:1-2 Ephesians 5:24-25

In these parables, the Lord Jesus gave us an example.