

## Lost & Found | A Shepherd's Story (Luke 15.3-7)

1. Pastor Mike opened with a brief discussion of the nature of the parables. For example, they often conceal more than reveal; they are made to provoke us to reflect as opposed to provide easy answers; they are first and foremost about the meaning of Jesus' life, not timeless principles for wise living (though one may be able to derive principles from them); and they illustrate how the nature and values of the kingdom of God are very different than what his audience expected.
  - a. How do you typically read parables? What do you look for when trying to understand them?
  - b. How did this sermon challenge the way you usually read parables?
2. What elements of this parable are the most interesting, challenging, or even confusing to you? Why?
  - a. Are you surprised by the fact that the shepherd would leave the 99 to find the one?
  - b. Are you surprised by the fact that there is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than for all those who don't need to?
3. What does parable reveal about the heart of God?
4. How have you experienced the radical comparison of God? How did God pursue you when you were lost?
  - a. How has God used this experience to shape your heart for the lost?
5. It seems that the point of this parable was Jesus challenging the pharisees to consider if they have a heart for the lost the same way that God does.
  - a. What are some ways that we might be like the pharisees and instead of rejoicing with God, we grumble against him because he isn't doing what we want the way we want him to do it?
  - b. When you consider your religious/spiritual habits and what gets you excited, what does it reveal about where your heart is at? What do you value most when it comes to your faith?
  - c. Share a time when you were able to rejoice over someone, who was lost, repenting and coming to faith in Jesus.