

Sermon ~ Sunday, June 28, 2022, by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: Luke 15: 3, 4a, b, c

Title: "One of Them is Lost!"

Mission(s) is "The LORD GOD going after *lost* humanity!

The years are many now, but I know how I felt when I first heard this, "Every **CHRISTian** is either a missionary or an *imposter*." How do you feel?

Our **LORD JESUS CHRIST** while here below, was continually in the *pursuit* of *lost* souls.

Seeking the *lost* **man** and **woman**, [the **girl** calling her name and waking **her** in bed from a deadly sleep. The **boy** **HE** raised from **his** casket; graveyard bound].

It was for this reason that **HE** came from Heaven to earth, *among* "them" that is, [synonyms: he/him, him/her, she/her, one-another, yourself/myself, me-I-you...]

Luke 15: 1, says "...the **publican(s)** [that is, manager(s), hostess(es)/bartender(s), maid(s)/butler(s), the holder(s) of another man's land *and* keeper/renter(s) of another man's house. A collector(s) of government taxes, who said, I had to steal, to pay my own bills/taxes] ... **And sinner(s)** [that is, *even* the robber(s) greedy for glory; the transgressor(s), trespasser(s), adulterer(s), evildoer(s), the delinquent(s) that young **ONE** who yearns/burns with the tendency to commit crimes without conscience; the reprobate(s), the rogue, rascal, and scoundrel] ... *even* those who were most evidently lost, **HE** had reason to *find* him/her *among* "them."

Oh, **HE** took *pains* to put **HIMSELF** where **HE** could come *into communication* with "them" the lost, and though in crowds, they drew near to hear **HIM**.

The *haters* could not distract **HIM**, Luke 15: 2, "the Phar-i-sees" [those *strict* observers, *traditional* trippers, the *pretenders* of superior sanctity, those self-righteous hypocrites] and "scribes" [copiers of documents without any commitment to them; the *record*-keepers of 'specks in another's eyes but *never see themselves* for that blinding *plank*, 'of its all about me,' in their own eyes. *Professional* performers before men and *merciless* meritor towards others.]

Even these, could not distract **HM**.

Mission(s) declares, "For **The Son of Man** is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

"Was," is a *verb*, 1st & 3rd person singular, past indicative of 'be,' "was lost."

And, 2nd person singular, expressing, "Is no longer in good use," "is lost." (Luke 19: 10)

Mission(s) has **ONE** Subject of Thought.

The **ONE** thought of *our* **LORD JESUS CHRIST**, **The GOD-Good SHEPHERD**, when **HE** sees/knows a **man** is lost to blessedness/happiness by wandering into *sin*, is to go after **him** *among* "them."

The Shepherd, looking over *his* little flock of **ONE** hundred, can only count *ninety and nine*.

He counts them again... and **He** notices that a certain **ONE** has gone. It may be... but **He** knows all about it, for "**I AM The Good Shepherd and know MY sheep, and AM known of MINE.**"

(John 10: 14) **The Shepherd** has a "photograph, a picture," of the *wanderer* in **HIS** mind's eye, and *now* he thinks but little of the *ninety and nine* who are feeding in the plush pastures of the wilderness, but **His** mind is in a ferment about "**ONE lost** sheep."

The **ONE** thought is, "a sheep is lost!"

*He can't rest for this agitational thought— "ONE sheep is lost." He can not eat bread; He can not go home; He can not rest while "ONE sheep is lost." After all it's a "sheep." Utterly *defenseless*. It has left its *defender*. If the *wolf* should spy it out. If the *lion* or *bear* should come across its track, 'the sheep' would *be torn to pieces* in an instant. I understand if it was "a dog" that was lost, he or she may find its way back home. But a 'sheep' has no sense of *direction*—a *wander, wandering, nibbling off* into **GOD'S** knows where... I understand if it was "a horse," after a couple of days it returns to its master's stable; BUT 'a lost sheep,' *fluffy but foolish, shiftless* [lazy, idle, lackadaisical] it can not provide for itself, easily *wearied and worn*, it *may be fainting*, it *may be far away* from green pastures, and ready to perish with no hunger among the bare rocks or upon the shifty sands of time. OH, what will become of "**ONE lost sheep.**"*

What is it that makes **The Great SHEPHERD and The Shepherd** lay so much to **HIS Heart**, the "**ONE lost sheep**" of **HIS** flock? I wondered too. You got *ninety and nine*, I thought also, why so *agitated* "if you *lose ONE* from among "them?"

Mission(s) is about "Proprietorship" ... not that we are the *Owner*, but the holder(s) of *another's property*.

This *parable* does not speak of a *hired shepherd*, but **The Good Shepherd's "proprietor"** [landlord, keeper, titleholder] ... "**What man of you having an hundred sheep, if he lose ONE of them.**"

Jesus spoke about "*hirelings*," "**I AM The Good Shepherd: The Good Shepherd giveth HIS life for the sheep. But he that is a hireling, and not The Shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth; and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep.**" (John 10: 11-13)

Mission(s) is not about lost humanity in a bulk... This *parable* is not about *ninety and nine safe* flock of sheep, but about "**ONE of Them is Lost!**" "For all like sheep had gone astray; we had turned every ONE to his own way; and The LORD hath laid on HIM the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53: 6)

Mission(s) is not just about "the lost and found; the blind seeing; the lame walking," but about "**The converted, whose saved but not safe.**"

Outside the fold means outside the count. There were *ninety and nine inside*—the lost ONE was not counted. The lost sheep was in danger, exposed and helpless, typical of those who are thoughtlessly safe but lost, unconscious of their condition.

Mission(s) is The Ministry of The HOLY SPIRIT. It's like the *Woman* who had *ten pieces of silver* (Luke 15: 8) and she lost ONE in the house. *Lose Coin*—represents that head bracelet with 10 coins she wore denoting her marital relationship, and that when she stepped out of the house, it witnessed 'she was *useful* at home.' To lose ONE is to declare '*uselessness*.' To lose ONE and *ignore* it as if it's not there, is like living the house and saying, 'I'm no use at home, but here, use me as you will. To lose ONE at home, and you *neglect* the *value* it represents, is like leaving home every day, working to "*gain, get, acquire, add on, profit*" and watch a *soul* be lost.

Mission(s) is **The Ministry of The HOLY SPIRIT**, for ‘the coin’ does not know it is *lost*, that *family member*, that *co-worker*, the *child* that lives next door or in the neighborhood, is *unconscious* and has no *sensation* of being *lost*. But **The HOLY SPIRIT** in me, says, ‘Do you see what I see,’ **Light the Candle**— “**Ye are the light of the world**”—**This Little Light of mind...**” Before you go, ‘Sweep the house,’ *if* there is so much *dust* and *filth* on the *inside*, surely you will miss it on the *outside*. *If* it hard to find on the *inside*, it will be that *much harder* to find on the *outside*.

Mission(s) is like **The Father** who seeks his *lost* Son to have **Fellowship** with Him.

(Luke 15: 12-32) *Relationship* but no *Fellowship*. In the house, but you *pout*, *stooping your feet*, *slamming doors*, *holding the icebox door open* like you own it, *murmuring* and *growling* like so mad dog, talking about what you *don’t like*, what you *want*, what’s *going to be*—**ONE of Them Lost!**—Out of *Fellowship*.

Out of *communion* with **The FATHER**: a condition of *degradation* and *dishonor* brought about by a *deliberate choice* and *willful separation* from **The FATHER’S Presence**.

Yes, we are **The LORD’S** own *flock*. **HE** did purchase *us*, but **HE** said, “...**The Good Shepherd** giveth **HIS life** for the sheep... and I lay down **MY life** for the sheep.” (John 10: 11, 15)

Oh, it’s *nearly twenty centuries* ago, since **HE** paid the *ransom price*, and bought *me* (you) to be **HIS own**. That *purchase sacrifice* of **HIS Life** for *my* life, **HIS Blood** for *my* blood, was not in vain. Our **SAVIOR** *looks upon HIS HANDS* and *sees* the marks of **HIS purchase**; **HE looks** at **HIS side** and *sees* the token of *the effectual redemption* of **HIS own elect**, from which **Blood—Life giving source**, and, **Water—Life Giving WORDS** from **The LIVING GOD** flowed.

Therefore, it presses on **HIM**, “**ONE of Them is Lost!**” *If JESUS lost* one of them... **What!**
ONE of Them Lost, whom **HE died** and was *bury* and *rose* again. **What!**
ONE of Them Lost, whom **The FATHER gave** to **HIM**. **What!**
ONE of Them Lost, just the thought, makes **HIM stand-up** from **HIS Throne** right now...
HE loves you--him... **HE dearly loves** you--her... Will **HE lose** one of those **HE dearly LOVES?**
NEVER, NEVER, NEVER!

I was *sinking* deep in *sin*....