



Sermon YAH'S HEART FOR THE LOST (Luke 15:3-7)

Theme: YAH'S HEART FOR THE LOST

Scripture References:

- Primary: Luke 15:3-7

- Supporting: Ezekiel 34:11-16, Matthew 18:12-14, John 10:11-16, 1 Peter 2:25

Introduction:

The parable of the Lost Sheep reveals the tender heart of Elohim for the lost. It teaches that Elohim actively seeks out sinners and rejoices over each one who is found. Yahoshuah tells this parable in response to the Pharisees' and scribes' criticism that He welcomes and associates with sinners (Luke 15:1-2). The religious leaders believed that interacting with "unclean" or sinful people would defile them, but Yahoshuah wanted to show that Elohim's love is different—He seeks, saves, and celebrates the lost.

This parable is part of a series in Luke 15, which includes the Lost Coin and the Prodigal Son. Together, these three stories highlight different aspects of Elohim's relentless pursuit and joy over the restoration of those who have strayed.

I. The Shepherd's Concern (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?" (KJV)

1. The Shepherd's Heart:

- The shepherd in this parable represents Yahoshuah as the Good Shepherd who cares deeply for each of His sheep. In John 10:11, Yahoshuah says, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."

- Unlike a hired hand who might neglect a lost sheep, the true shepherd is emotionally invested and personally responsible for each sheep's welfare. This reflects Elohim's love and concern for every individual, regardless of their spiritual condition.

2. The Sheep's Plight:

- Sheep are naturally prone to wander and become lost (Isaiah 53:6). Once separated from the flock, a lost sheep is helpless, defenseless, and in grave danger. It cannot find its way back on its own.

- This imagery describes the spiritual condition of sinners—lost and unable to save themselves. As 1 Peter 2:25 states, "For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

3. Leaving the Ninety-Nine:

- The shepherd's decision to leave the ninety-nine to seek the one lost sheep seems risky. This action illustrates that every individual matters to Elohim. His concern for the lost outweighs the security of the others.

- This doesn't mean He abandons the righteous. The ninety-nine are already safe and secure, but the one is in immediate danger and in need of rescue.

Application:

Just as the shepherd is willing to leave his comfort and go into dangerous terrain to find the sheep, Elohim is willing to go to great lengths to save each person. He left the glory of heaven, took on flesh, and even died on the cross to save us (Philippians 2:6-8).

II. The Shepherd's Pursuit (Luke 15:4-5)

> "And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing." (Luke 15:5, KJV)

1. Persistent Search:

- The shepherd doesn't give up searching "until he finds it." This pursuit reflects Elohim's persistence and determination to bring the lost back into His fold.

- Elohim's pursuit of sinners is motivated by love and a desire for restoration. In Ezekiel 34:11-12, Elohim says, "Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out... so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered."

2. Carrying the Sheep:

- When the shepherd finds the lost sheep, he doesn't chastise it or drive it back with a rod. Instead, he gently lifts it onto his shoulders. This is a picture of the tenderness and care Elohim has for those who have strayed.

- The act of carrying the sheep on his shoulders shows that Elohim bears our burdens and carries us back to safety. Yahoshuah says in Matthew 11:28, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

3. Joyful Return:

- The shepherd's heart is filled with joy when he finds the lost sheep. He doesn't complain about the inconvenience or cost but instead rejoices. This mirrors the heavenly joy over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:7).

Application:

Just as the shepherd joyfully carries the lost sheep, Elohim delights in restoring the broken. He is not reluctant but eager to forgive and receive us.

III. The Rejoicing in Heaven (Luke 15:6-7)

> "And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost." (Luke 15:6, KJV)

1. The Celebration:

- The shepherd's joy is not private; he calls his friends and neighbors to celebrate with him. This represents the joy in heaven over every soul that turns to Elohim.

- Luke 15:7 clarifies, "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."

2. Heaven's Perspective:

- The angels and all of heaven rejoice because each soul is precious to Elohim (Luke 15:10). This parable contrasts the self-righteous attitude of the Pharisees, who looked down on sinners.

- In Matthew 18:12-14, Yahoshuah repeats a similar parable, concluding, "Even so, it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish."

Application:

Are we reflecting Elohim's heart by rejoicing over the salvation of others? Do we share in the joy of heaven when the lost are found?

Conclusion:

The parable of the Lost Sheep teaches us about the heart of Elohim for every person. No one is too far gone or insignificant in His sight. He pursues us relentlessly, carries us home with tender love, and rejoices over every repentant sinner. Let us join in His mission to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10) and celebrate each one who returns to Him.

May we have the heart of the shepherd, always seeking out those who are lost and rejoicing when they are found.