

**Gospel of Matthew 18 “Leaving the Ninety-nine”**  
**Matthew 18:10-14**  
**October 1, 2023**

Matthew 18:10-14

10 “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. 12 What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? 13 And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. 14 So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

Angels and a shepherd.

Matthew 18:12

12 What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?

Your “lostness” is a place you must be retrieved from.

1 Peter 3:18

18 For Christ also suffered<sup>[a]</sup> once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

Ephesians 2:13 (New King James Version- NKJV)

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

God enjoys our returning home more than we can imagine.

“sought after”

“The eyes of mercy are quicker than the eyes of repentance. He sees a sinner long before a sinner sees Him.”

God doesn't need the prettiest version of you to pursue.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us

wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

#### 1 Corinthians 11:17-22

17 But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. 18 For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part,[e] 19 for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. 20 When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. 21 For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. 22 What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not.

Highlighting Jesus death without highlighting what it produces.

#### **Grow Group Discussion Questions**

- 1.) What did God say to you through the Scriptures during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) How can achievements and success distance people from one another? Have you ever seen a promotion or career advancement hurt relationships? Why?
- 3.) Do you have a story about being lost? How you did find your way?
- 4.) Discuss the idea that God doesn't need the prettiest version of you to pursue? What does that say about God's nature? Why is this hard to believe sometimes?
- 5.) Reflecting on Matthew 18 up to this point, why are conversations about personal greatness incongruent with Christianity?
- 6.) What are you learning about Jesus' sensitivity and concern for "little ones?" Is there anyone that you should check on and encourage this week?
- 7.) What are some ways you can help each other apply this passage to your lives this week?