



LEAVING THE 99 IN THE WILDERNESS.

Many Pastors Do Such A Great Job Of Feeding Their Sheep And Holding Them Together. Still many wander away Into The World.

Today We Look At Another Side Of **The Pastor** In Relation To The Lost Sheep On The Outside Of The Flock, The Church.

JESUS IS THE GREAT SHEPHERD. And All Us Underling's Learn How **To Pastor**, From **HIM**.

So What Does **JESUS** Teach In Luke 15:1-4?

"Then Drew Near Unto **HIM** All The Publicans And Sinners For To Hear **HIM**. (This Would Send Terror Through Most Of Our Comfortable Churches).

And The Pharisees And The Scribes Murmured, Saying, **This Man** Receives Sinners And Eats With Them." (Now What Exactly Is A Pharisee?)

PHARISEE: "Pharisaios" A Separatist, That Is, Being Exclusively Religious.

MURMURED: "diagoguzo" To Complain Throughout A Crowd.

THIS MAN RECEIVES (And Eats): "prodechomai" To Admit To Hospitality, Waits For With Patience. And Takes Food In Company With.

"And **JESUS** Spoke This Parable To Them, Saying,

What Man Of You, Having An 100 Sheep, If He Lose ONE Of Them, Does Not LEAVE The 99 In The Wilderness, And GO AFTER That Which IS LOST, UNTIL HE FINDS IT."

Wow! This Is Compassion For The LOST! In-

FINDING THE ONE LOST SOUL Luke 15:5-6

"And When He Has Found It, He lays It Upon His Shoulders, Rejoicing.

With A Compassionate Shepherd, It's Not A Question Of If He Finds The Lost Sheep, BUT WHEN HE FINDS IT!

Now He Shoulders His Responsibility For The Lost One. Now He Rejoices! It's Not A Responsibility For Someone Else, To Carry His LOST Sheep Home To His Flock.

THE SHOULDERS: "omos" The Shoulders Are Where Burdens Are Borne!

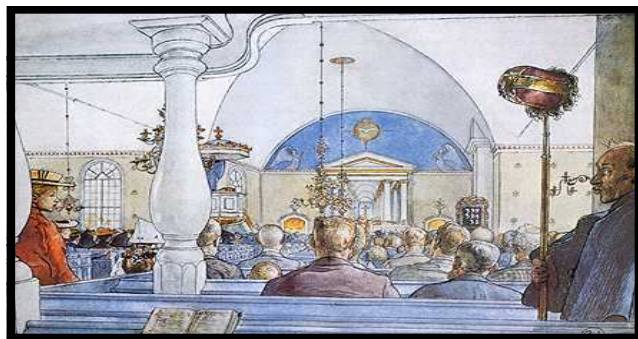
Do We Pastors 'Downplay Loosing A Sheep? Or Do We UPHOLD THEM AS OUR RESPONSIBILITY To Search Out And To Rescue Back To Our Church Flock?

"And When He Comes Home (to his church), He Calls His Friends And Neighbors, Saying Unto Them, Rejoice With Me For I Have Found MY SHEEP WHICH WAS LOST."

"...There Is Joy In Heaven Over One Sinner That Repents" - JESUS

Now Look At All These Reasons **The PASTOR** Is Rejoicing:

#1. He Obeyed The GREAT SHEPHERD, And Followed HIS Pattern And Compassion For The LOST!



stead Of Just Holding On To His Congregated Flock, He Leaves Them In The Care Of Others "In The Wilderness." And **He Himself Goes Searching.**

Many Pastors Have **Associate Pastors** Who Are Well Able And Well Taught To Hold The Flock Together While **The Chief Shepherd GOES AND SEEKS OUT THE LOST. Why Do Pastor's Send Out A Sheep To Look For Their LOST SHEEP? NO, THIS IS PASTOR/SHEPHERD WORK IN IT'S MOST COMPASSIONATE FORM!**

So Often **The Shepherd / Pastor** Wants To "Stay with the bleating's of their flocks". More Concerned About The Tithe Than The LOST SHEEP Outside.

Yet **JESUS** Said "The **Shepherd Leaves** The 99 In

The Wilderness" **Because He Must Seek The ONE.** What is this word Wilderness?

WILDERNESS: "eremos" Lonesome Waste, Desert, Desolate, Solitary, or A Space Of Territory, a Room, a Temple (even a Church).

Pastor's Are Very Reluctant To Give Up Present (Sanctuary) Presence To Go Out Into The Front Lines Of Battle To Rescue The LOST Sheep In Trouble.

"For The Divisions Of Reuben There Were Great Thoughts Of Heart.

"Why Did You Remain With The Sheepfolds, To Hear The Bleating's Of The Flocks?"

"For The Divisions Of Reuben There Were Great Searching's Of Heart."

Judges 5:16. (As **Pastors**, We Must Be Going To The Battle Field For The Lost Souls!)

#2. He Fulfilled His Pastoral Responsibility To Seek And Rescue His LOST SHEEP!

#3. He Adds Them Back Into His Own Flock!

#4. Others Rejoice In His Ability And His COMPASSIONATE VALOR!

#5. Now His Flock Feels Secure!

JESUS Said Heaven Was Rejoicing Over 1 Restored.

"...More Than Over 99 Just Persons Which Need No Repentance." —JESUS.

We Concern Ourselves To Much With The Churched!

Let GOD Provide the Tithe For Us, Even In Our Absence From Our Flock, While We Seek Our Lost Sheep, Even Those That We've Offended.