

Luke 15:4

“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?”

Jesus spoke this parable about the shepherd leaving the ninety nine sheep to go and get the one sheep that was lost. But if you think about it, being a shepherd was their line of work, so in the business sense it would be better business to count your loss of one sheep, while you still have the gain from the ninety nine.

But Jesus is telling us that this is not a business thing, and that the one is just as important as the ninety nine. But in our world today, we count that as loss and all we have to do is go to the internet and get a new one when we lose something or it breaks or gets lost (Like the one sheep).

We have turned lives into things, and have even turned churches into a business, and we forget that there are millions of people out there with real needs and a few clicks on a page on the internet will not fix what they really need. Sure it can help out with some, like giving and supporting Christian organizations, like Compassion International, that helps children in other countries, supplying them with food, medicine and schooling and most important the gospel.

But what about in our own hometowns and in our churches and even in our homes. Are we so busy with the ninety nine that we are neglecting the one? The ninety nine are fine, they have one another and support one another, but the one who wanders away, have nothing but wolves out there that are looking for the one, all by itself that they can take advantage of and devour.

✠ ***For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. Romans 16:18***

Think about that, who is the one in your church that maybe you have not seen in a few weeks? Have you asked about him or her or that family wanting to make sure that they are ok, or are we so busy with the ninety nine that we figure if the one wants to go off by themselves, that's their own choice, let them go and we will just focus on the ninety nine that are still in the church.

Also, maybe you don't know who that one is, could it be that you are so caught up in the ninety nine, that you don't realize that there is a one?

Or let me bring more in perspective.

Who do you hang out with at church?

Who do you talk to when you first get there?

Who do you invite to lunch after church?

What church click are you a part of?

“*Oh, I’m not part of a click at church*” you may be thinking. Well, if you just hang out with, and always talk to the same people, then you are a part of a click.

I’m on the worship team at church, but before, after and between services, I don’t hang out with the worship team, I walk around and talk to everyone that I can, not because I am anything great, because I am not. But those I meet are the great “ones” and not the great “ninety nine”.

† *fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Philippians 2:2-4*

† *If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care— then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends. Don't push your way to the front; don't sweet-talk your way to the top. Put yourself aside, and help others get ahead. Don't be obsessed with getting your own advantage. Forget yourselves long enough to lend a helping hand. Philippians 2:1-4 (MSG)*