The Lost Sheep KZ Lesson 1/3/21

# Memory Verse: 2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)

**9**The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Target Thought: Jesus wants everyone in Heaven.

Luke 15:1-7 (NKJV)

**15**Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. **2**And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, “This Man receives sinners and eats with them.” **3**So He spoke this parable to them, saying:

**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? **5**And when he has found *it,* he lays *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing. **6**And when he comes home, he calls together *his* friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ **7**I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

Jesus loves everyone equally, even before they love Him. He wants everyone in Heaven with Him, and for them to lve Him and live for Him.

Jesus taught this lesson to a group of religious leaders one day. The religious leaders were very upset that Jesus was often seen associating with sinners. He was even sometimes seen eating with them. The religious leaders didn't like that at all and were very critical of Jesus. They only liked who they liked and didn't understand Jesus loving everyone, Jesus told them a story to help them to understand.

"Suppose one of you had a hundred sheep and you lost one of them," Jesus said. "Wouldn't you leave the ninety-nine who were safe, and go and search for the lost sheep? And when you found the lost sheep, wouldn't you joyfully put it on your shoulders and carry it back home? Wouldn't you be so happy that you would tell all of your friends about finding the lost sheep?" I imagine that all of the religious leaders had to agree that they would do just as Jesus had suggested. Then Jesus said to them, "In the same way, there is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

Jesus loves everyone so much and He has only good plans for them. Jesus doesn't want us to live life without Him because He wants to protect us and provide for us.

The Bible teaches us that we are like sheep and sometimes stray away from God. That makes God very sad, but He never gives up on us. He keeps searching for us and calling to us. He wants to draw us back into his arms. He even sent Jesus, his Son, to save those who are lost. All we have to do if we stray from Jesus is ask Him to forgive us.

Aren't you glad that God doesn't give up on his lost sheep? I am, because "I once was lost, but now I'm found!" and aren't especially glad that Jeus forgives us when we are wrong and that He forgets our sins once we repent. Is it hard to imagine HOW much Jesus loves us? Do we love each other as much as Jesus loves us?

Dear Jesus, Thank you that you are the Good Shepherd,Thank you for loving and forgiving us and help us to lead others to You. In You Name we ask. Amen.