

TITLE AND NUMBER: 254 You are priceless

REFERENCE AND KEY VERSES: Luke 15:1-7



Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering round to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, 'This man welcomes sinners, and eats with them.' Then Jesus told them this parable: 'Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep." I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need to repent.'

LOOKING FURTHER: Luke 19:10; Romans 10:9-11; Romans 8:15-17; Ephesians 1:5

What does the Bible passage tell us?

Jesus was again talking to the crowd about the Kingdom of God. We are told that the Pharisees and religious leaders considered those who were listening to be outcasts and undesirables. They accused Jesus of spending time with sinners who, in their opinion, were not worth bothering with. They considered them to be of no value and utterly worthless. We may have been told that we are not clever enough to achieve anything worthwhile. It hurts even though it's not true. Don't be trapped by other people's opinions; don't let your past define the rest of your life.

Jesus spoke directly to His critics and told them a parable. He began, 'Suppose one of you were to lose a sheep.' And He proceeds to describe what lengths the shepherd would go to to find it; even leaving the other ninety-nine! When he found it, there was a celebration because every one of his sheep was precious to him. Each one had value.

There is good news for every one of us. God considers us to be of immense value, in fact we're priceless! We are worth so much, He sent His Son Jesus to die for us. And, if we confess our sin to Him and have faith in what He has done for us, our sins are forgiven (Romans 10:9-11). We do have value and worth. We are even called a son or daughter of God, adopted into His own family! (Romans 8:15-17; Ephesians 1:5) This enables us all to share in His inheritance, which the Holy Spirit guarantees, even eternal life with Him in heaven (Ephesians 1:14). All this is a free gift from God—we can never earn it.

Heaven is thrilled when we accept Jesus as our Saviour; Jesus said: 'I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need to repent' (Luke 15:7). Let's praise and thank Him for His kindness and amazing love for us all.

Reflection

- How do you feel knowing that you can be adopted into God's family?
- Thank God that lost people can be found, whatever their situation.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to those who feel lost and worthless. Let Him use you to support and encourage them.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for?
It's okay to talk to God about this.

