

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church  
Paul Gunn, Pastor

Lost and Found Series, Sermon #8

Sermon Title: What To Do When You Are Lost From the Fold: The Story of All of Us, John 10:11-15, 27-30; Matthew 18:12-14

Date preached: October 22, 2017

For public use: See non-copyright comments at the end of message

**INTRODUCTION:** Today's lost and found sermon is about a sheep wandering from the fold. Read with me from Matthew 18:12.

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 18:12-14 <sup>12</sup> *“What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? <sup>13</sup> And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. <sup>14</sup> In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.*

In this chapter, Jesus had been talking to the people about children and how we should receive children. Really, his message was about how we should take children who have spiritual interests seriously. I believe I have a message for you in the coming weeks about children and the direction we should take as a church with children.

The three points of my sermon today are:

1. When you are lost from the fold, admit you need a shepherd.
2. When you are lost from the fold, listen for the voice of the shepherd.
3. When you are lost from the fold, let the shepherd rescue you.

Of all the animals on earth, the scripture compares people to sheep. That's rather unflattering. I'd rather be compared to a lion, a tiger, or an eagle. But, no, people are compared to sheep. Historically, sheep have been considered as not very bright. I saw an animal IQ list that put pigs ahead of sheep in intelligence. I wonder how that's decided? Recent studies propose sheep are smarter than previously thought, but I wonder if that's nothing more than political correctness finding its way into animal studies.

Psalm 23 gives us a very vivid account of this: *The Lord is my shepherd*. The psalm poetically tells of the care of the shepherd.

A young 22-year-old man in 1757 wrote the words to *Come Thou Fount*. He included these lyrics: *Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed His precious blood.*

**First, WHEN YOU ARE LOST FROM THE FOLD, ADMIT YOU NEED A SHEPHERD.**

Perhaps we are compared to sheep because we are prone to go our own ways and act independently from God, like sheep are prone to do.

**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 53:6 <sup>6</sup>*We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way*

**EXPLANATION:** Sheep are defenseless animals. In Bible times and in some places on earth today, due to lack of fences, a shepherd must care for sheep. There are a lot of people trying to steal sheep.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 10:11-15 <sup>11</sup>*“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.* <sup>12</sup>*The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it.* <sup>13</sup>*The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.* <sup>14</sup>*“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—* <sup>15</sup>*just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.*

I think of the leaders of other religions as the hired hand mentioned in scripture. There is no religious leader who even comes close to the good shepherd—Jesus.

**APPLICATION:** Just like every sheep needs a shepherd, every person needs a shepherd. The reason people are compared to sheep in the Bible is because we act like sheep. “Each has turned to our own way.”

## **Second, WHEN YOU ARE LOST FROM THE FOLD, LISTEN FOR THE VOICE OF THE SHEPHERD.**

**SCRIPTURE:** John 10:27-30 <sup>27</sup> *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.* <sup>28</sup> *I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.* <sup>29</sup> *My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.* <sup>30</sup> *I and the Father are one.*”

**APPLICATION:** There are so many distractions around us. Many of you would say there are more distractions today than there were yesterday, and in the future, there will be even more distractions.

Have you ever felt like just a number? Have you ever felt like just a person in the crowd? I like going places and doing business with people who know my name.

You'll hear people say, "I'm good with faces but not names." What exactly does that mean? What if Jesus said, "I'm good with faces, but not names"? What if Jesus said, "I've forgotten your name. I know I died on the cross for you, but I can't remember your name, so who are you exactly?" The Good Shepherd knows his sheep.

## **Third, WHEN YOU ARE LOST FROM THE FOLD, LET THE SHEPHERD RESCUE YOU.**

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 18:12-14 <sup>12</sup> *“What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? <sup>13</sup> And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. <sup>14</sup> In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.*

**EXPLANATION:** It is interesting how the shepherd leaves ninety-nine unattended to go after the one. What about the ninety-nine? Don't they need a shepherd? The shepherd is willing to risk the well-being of the flock in order to rescue the one missing sheep.

**APPLICATION:** If you find yourself lost from the fold, please know there is a shepherd searching for you. He is searching for you as if you are the only sheep in his fold. If you are wandering, the best thing you can do is stop wandering and listen for his voice. Let him find you while he is searching.

In the story of lost and found, everyone needs a shepherd. How many of you listening can say that Jesus rescued you? He may have rescued you from a terrible situation or something else, but ultimately, he rescued all of us because we were headed in our own direction. Just like a shepherd rescues a sheep, Jesus rescues us.

We have studied several stories of lost and found things in the Bible:

- What to do when you've lost your cutting edge (9-3)
- What to do when God seems lost (9-17)
- What to do when you've lost your delete key—speaking impulsively (9-24)
- What to do when your life changes directions (10-1)
- What to do when you've lost your courage (10-7)
- What to do when you've lost your will to live (10-15)
- And, today—What to do when you're lost from the fold (10-22)

**CONCLUSION:** The Bible is full of lost and found stories—because our Lord is in the finding business. It's what he does. He knows the sin you're hiding. He knows you're running. He knows you're trying to run from him. He knows all those things, yet he keeps searching and searching and searching—because he wants people whose hearts and minds are sold out to him. And, he wants us to give up and admit we need a shepherd. I need a shepherd. Do you need one? As your pastor, I'm telling you I need a shepherd. I need a shepherd, and I need it to be the Lord, the Good Shepherd. I don't need to listen to the voices around me—all the distractions around me. I need to listen to the voice of the Shepherd—the Good Shepherd.

To preachers, teachers, students, and anyone else reading or using this message: I have posted this for all to use as you see fit. There is no need to cite me as the source. You are free to delete sections, add your own, or do whatever you want. There is no copyright. My request is that you do not copyright or sell my work. I am sharing my preaching notes in good faith with you because I know the challenges of putting together a lesson, especially when your week gets consumed with other things. Use it and enjoy!

I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

Find me at [www.thbc.com](http://www.thbc.com) Click on sermons or YouTube channel: Pastor Paul Gunn  
Thanks to Judy Andrews and Nancy Claire Smith for their editing assistance.

Sincerely, Paul Gunn  
Tusculum Hills Baptist Church  
Nashville, Tennessee  
USA