



A Father's Love
Luke 15:1-7
June 15, 2003

SHEPHERD: A person who cares for sheep

1. THE FATHER'S LOVE IS PATIENT.

The sheep consistently stray and the Shepherd faithfully searches.

Matt 18:21-22 *Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."*

2. THE FATHER'S LOVE IS PROACTIVE. He looks for us, waiting to forgive and restore us.

The Shepherd searches for the lost sheep.

Luke 19:10 *For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

3. THE FATHER'S LOVE IS AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE.

All Sheep matter to the shepherd.

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

4. THE FATHER KNOWS HIS SHEEP.

Shepherds are experts in tracking sheep.

Matt 10:28-31 *And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them*

falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

5. THE FATHER'S LOVE IS SELF-SACRIFICING.

The Shepherd searches for the sheep Himself.

Mark 10:45 *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*

6. THE FATHER'S LOVE IS PROVISIONAL - God provides all that we need to make it home.

The Shepherd carries the found sheep on his shoulders.

1 Cor 10:13 *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

7. THE FATHER'S LOVE IS PROTECTIVE.

The Shepherd leaves the remaining 99 sheep with another shepherd.

John 21:15-17

Gal 6:1-2 *Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

8. THE FATHER'S LOVE REJOICES OVER SECOND CHANCES.

The Shepherd hosts a party upon the return of His lost sheep.

Luke 15:10 *Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.*