

Help Wanted -- Matthew 9:35-38

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like **sheep without a shepherd**. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is **plentiful** but the **workers are few**. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”



Sheepish





Something to Ponder -- Matthew 25:34-40



How did Jesus Identify Sheep?



Shepherd Sheep



Seeking the lost sheep -- Luke 15:3-7

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 neighbors 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 persons who do not need to repent.



*Counting
is not Enough*



Counting is not enough

If you count but take no action the counting is a useless exercise

Note the shepherd counted, once the numbers did not add up, he took action

He went looking for the missing one

He did not stop until the missing the one was found





*How does
a sheep go missing*



They wandered off -- Matthew 18:10-13

“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? 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.”



They wandered off

Wander: walk or move in a leisurely, casual, or aimless way

It did not happen all at once, it's something that happens gradually

**The Reason for Wandering:
Aimless -- they Lack Direction**



Mistreated -- Zechariah 10:2

The idols speak deceitfully, diviners see visions that lie; they tell dreams that are false, they give comfort in vain. Therefore the people wander like sheep **oppressed for lack of a shepherd.**



Mistreated -- 1 Peter 5:1-3

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are **willing**, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being **examples to the flock**. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.



Willing Example

Sheep don't need to be told they need to be led

Sheep are not there for your profit but for your care

Sheep are not there to serve you, you are to lead them



This is SERIOUS! -- Jeremiah 23:1-2

“Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the Lord. Therefore this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: “Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,” declares the Lord.



Captured -- Acts 20:29-30

I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.



There are two kinds and "wolves"

Those that move in from the outside

Those that work from the inside

Two kinds one result --- Missing Sheep

They may even come in disguise -- Matthew 7:15

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.”



Finding Lost Sheep -- Luke 19:10

You may have to humble yourself

You may have to apologize

It may take time

It will take prayer



When You Go

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Notice they are missing: Counting

Understand why they are missing

You must go to them



Remember!

**Your goal is not the get the here,
your goal is to get them to safety**



Shepherds Wanted

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