

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

MAY 13, 2020

MATHEW 8:12-14

INTRODUCTION:

1. Consider three thoughts concerning the kingdom of heaven.
 - a) The kingdom of heaven is comprised of people who have been saved. (1 Pet. 2.9,10)
 - b) Your role in the church is not as important as your condition. (Jude 3; 1 Cor. 12.12,13)
 - c) Every soul lost bring weeping. Every soul saved is a time of celebration. (2 Cor. 7.5-9)
2. Matthew 18 begins with a discussion concerning the kingdom of heaven.
 - a) The disciples had ambitions to be the greatest. (Matt. 18.1-5; Luke 9.46)
 - b) Jesus was not concerned about position, but salvation. (Matt. 18.6-11)
 - c) The parable of the lost sheep tells us about how God feels about the lost.
3. In a context where Jesus warns of the danger of being a bad influence, He uses an illustration to show the importance of every soul. [Read Matthew 18.12-14]

I. THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

- A. Reaction to the sheep that is lost.
 1. **MATTHEW 18.12:** *“What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep”*
 - a) Sheep had an economical value. (Job 1.3; 2 Sam. 12.1-3; Ezek. 28.18)
 - b) Sheep had a provisional value. (Isa. 7.21,22; Job 31.20)
 - c) Sheep had an emotional value. (2 Sam. 12.3; Ps. 23.1)
 2. **MATTHEW 18.12:** *“and one of them goes astray”* (Jer. 22.12,13; Ezek. 20.37)
 3. **MATTHEW 18.12:** *“does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying?”*
 - a) The mountain was treacherous due to the elements and thieves. (cf. Luke 10.30)
 - b) The shepherd was willing to put himself at risk to save the sheep.
- B. Reaction to the sheep that is found.
 1. **MATTHEW 18.13:** *“And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices”*
 - a) “Assuredly” (amen): This is important and is to be emphasized.
 - b) “Rejoices” (chair): It carries the idea of a celebration. (Luke 15.22-25)
 2. **MATTHEW 18.13:** *“more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray.”* (Luke 15.31,32).

II. THE POINT OF THE PARABLE

- A. **MATTHEW 18.14:** *“Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.”*
 1. *“Little ones”* Converted believers. (Matthew 18.6,10)
 2. In contrast with the parable in Luke 15, Jesus is concerned restoration. In Matthew’s account, Jesus is concerned about prevention. (Luke 15.7; Matt. 18.14)
- B. Every sheep is important to God.
 1. In business, loss is expected and worked into the balance sheet. What percentage of loss will God consider acceptable? (2 Pet. 3.9)
 2. The Father knows the name of every individual sheep. (John 10.2,14)
 3. This makes every sheep important to us. (Gal. 6.1; Matt. 18.15)