

Proper 19 [24]

Sunday between September 11 and September 17 inclusive

Luke 15:1–10, MSG

15:4–7 “Suppose one of you had a hundred sheep and lost one. Wouldn’t you leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the lost one until you found it? When found, you can be sure you would put it across your shoulders, rejoicing, and when you got home call in your friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Celebrate with me! I’ve found my lost sheep!’ Count on it – there’s more joy in heaven over one sinner’s rescued life than over ninety-nine good people in no need of rescue.”

Name: Good morning, everyone. I’m sure glad to be here this morning and I’m really looking forward to seeing Robbie. Let’s call him. 1, 2, 3... *Robbie!*

Robbie: (wearing a lamb’s head) Baaa!

Name: Robbie, is that you?

Robbie: Baaa!

Name: Robbie!

Robbie: Oh (Name), you saw right through my disguise.

Name: Why are you trying to disguise yourself?

Robbie: Well, it’s because I’m feeling a little bit sheepish this morning.

Name: Sheepish?

Robbie: Yeah, I’m feeling a little bit ashamed.

Name: Why are you feeling ashamed, Robbie?

Robbie: Well, it all started last week after the service. I was supposed to help clean up the castle.

Name: I remember, Robbie. You and I decided that the castle needed some tidying up so we made a plan to stay after the service to take care of business.

Robbie: Only...

Name: Only after the service I looked all over for you but you were nowhere to be found.

Robbie: I was a “BAAA-D” dragon. You see, friends of mine came by and asked me to go to the park with them and I sort of forgot to stay and help clean.

Name: You *sort of* forgot?

Robbie: Well, not really, (Name). I sort of chose to go with my friends rather than stay and help clean up.

Name: I see.

Robbie: I'm really sorry, (Name), I've felt bad all week and I didn't know if you'd welcome me back this morning?

Name: You know, Robbie, this reminds me of the gospel lesson this morning.

Robbie: Really?

Name: Really. In the gospel lesson, Jesus tells us about a sheep that lost its way.

Robbie: Directionally challenged?

Name: Sort of. You know sheep usually follow their shepherd.

Robbie: True. But you know, (Name), sheep are easily distracted.

Name: And when they are distracted they sometimes forget to follow the shepherd.

Robbie: And that's when they can get into trouble.

Name: True enough. But Jesus tells us that a good shepherd doesn't just forget about the sheep that has lost its way. Even though the shepherd has lots of sheep, each sheep is precious. So the shepherd keeps looking, hoping to find the sheep.

Robbie: When the shepherd finds the lost lamb, doesn't she get mad at the lamb for getting lost in the first place?

Name: The gospel tells us that even though the lamb got lost the shepherd is *so* happy that the lamb is found that she picks him up and gives him a big hug because she loves the lamb so much.

Robbie: (Name), I'm sorry I didn't stay and help clean up the castle.

Name: I know you are, Robbie. I'm just so glad that you found your way back to (church name).

Robbie: And I'm so glad you kept looking for me.

Name: You know, Robbie, we all lose our way sometimes, but the good news is that God continues to call us back to be part of the family.

Robbie: By the way, the castle looks great except I think you missed a spot.

Name: Robbie!

Robbie: I mean it's *perfect*. Amen.

Name: Amen.