

8/6/23- SERIES-'MORE THAN' (#10)

PASTOR JOHN

The "99" Are
Not at risk;
The one lost
Sheep is!

- Mathew 12:12-14- - *What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray. And if he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it MORE THAN over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the Will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."*

To God, each
of us is worth
saving!

He loves us!
(More than)

- Pastor Jeremy: In current world context....isn't 1% typically too small to worry about.....isn't the focus on the 99% (eg. 99% on test; 99% satisfaction rate, etc.)...so normally very acceptable. Inversely, 1% of whatever is an 'acceptable' loss.
- But what if we are quantifying human beings!?whole different story. Eg. On a class trip, you CAN'T lose one of a hundred kids....completely/ridiculously unacceptable!
- In the passage, Jesus isn't really talking sheep but to illustrate the value of us, as human beings. God cares about/loves each one and serves as Comforter/Rescuer to those who have felt loss in their lives.

Like a Child,
Be Humble!

Focus:
- Obedience
- Salvation
- JESUS!

- Jesus was lead to give his disciples this message/parable. Discussion was stimulated by their question...Math18: 1-4- - *At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to Him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said "Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."*
- The disciples had asked related questions before regarding their own 'inner circle' status to Jesus who they perceived would soon be king (forever). He, however, never chastised them directly for their ambition/pride but simply corrected them. His message also embraces the concept that entrance into the kingdom of heaven was not about great deeds but about acknowledging great needs. We don't deserve it!
- Jesus is saying....forget rank, position, etc.just getting there (saving the lost) IS the issue! See Jesus as the Rescuer that He is!

Upper Most
Priority!

Are You Lost?

- Through rest of Chapter, Jesus reemphasizes that entrance into heaven IS the priority.....the life or death issue.
- Focus on sin.....the real issue separating us from God. Recognizing the options: heaven.....orhell. (ie. cut the hand off; pluck the eye).
- Tells Hershey Park pirate ship story...as 10 year old boy, 'separated' from Parentsnever considered himself 'lost'....Point: YOU CAN BE LOST for QUITE SOME TIME BEFORE YOU REALIZE YOU ARE, INDEED 'LOST'.

Jesus, in
perfect
humility,
SAVES us!

- A good Shepard would recognize thisrecognize the value of the sheep and pursue. There is where we see Jesus' heart. Like the shepherd 'taking the risk, Jesus had to humble himself....enter this world and rescue us.

Seek God!
Keep Him
#1 !!!
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FOR THE POTENTIALLY 'UNCOMMITTED', GOD DOES NOT DESIRE FOR ANY OF US TO BE LOST! NOR DOES HE DESIRE THE 'SAVED' TO DRIFT!
KEEP GOD #1.ALWAYS!