



# The Lost Sheep

Tracking lost sheep was a familiar activity for the shepherds of Palestine. Jesus knew this and hence narrated the parable of the good shepherd to explain the feelings of His Father for lost souls.



Jesus asked the crowd who among them would not go in search of a sheep from their flock if it were missing. Indeed, he would take every risk to locate the lost sheep. He would then return home joyfully carrying it on his shoulders, and call his friends and neighbours together to celebrate the occasion.

Similarly, Jesus said, there will be greater joy and celebration in heaven when God finds a sinner who repents and is found. The Father and His son, Jesus himself, would rejoice at the return of a lost soul into the Kingdom of God.

In this parable Jesus lets it be known that even those who sinned were loved by the Father, who cared for them and wanted them to be part of His kingdom. He portrayed a God who goes searching for the lost people.

Just as God called Adam and Eve when they went astray, God searches for us when we go away from Him. The Father sent Jesus to search for the lost ones and bring them back to God's way through love and forgiveness.

Jesus is the good shepherd and knows every sheep by name. He would not want to lose a single sheep from His flock. In the same way Jesus wants those who follow Him to go in search of those who are lost in worldly sins.



## Word of God

Luke 15: 1 – 7

One day when many tax collectors and other outcasts came to listen to Jesus, the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law started grumbling, "this man welcomes outcasts and even eats with them." So, Jesus told them this parable:

"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them—what do you do? You leave the other ninety-nine sheep in the pasture and go looking for the one that got lost until you find it. When you find it, you are so happy that you put it on your shoulders and carry it back home. Then you call your friends and neighbors together and say to them, 'I am so happy I found my lost sheep. Let us celebrate!' In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine respectable people who do not need to repent.



## Insight

Established in 1831, Holy Cross Church at Mahabaleshwar hill station is the oldest church in Maharashtra, outside Mumbai and Vasai. This church has one of the lowest number of parishioner families. The church remains sealed with a tarpaulin sheet during the four-month monsoon when the hill station receives heavy rainfall. A priest from Pune celebrates mass at the church every Saturday evening, and on Sunday morning from October to May. Though the number of parishioners is very low, over 100 tourists attend the Eucharist celebrations at the church.

## Notes

### Know Now

Founded by Paris Foreign Missions Society and built between 1844 –1847, Good

Shepherd Church, the oldest Roman Catholic church of Singapore is located in the museum planning area and it is the mother church of the Archdiocese of Singapore. Father Jean-Marie Beurel blessed and opened the church on 6 June 1847. Queen Marie-Amelie Therese of France and the Archbishop of Manila donated a large amount of money for its construction. The name Good Shepherd is based on a note written by Saint Laurent-Marie-Joseph Imbert, a martyr in Korea, who was probably the first Roman Catholic priest to visit Singapore.

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