

God Statement: Jesus Pursues

Read in your Bible: Matthew 18:10-14 & Luke 15:1-7

Question #1:

Read the verse leading up to Matthew 18:10-14. What is the surrounding context of this parable? (What were the disciples arguing about?)

Question #2:

The parable of the lost sheep shows us how God the Father thinks of us. What kind of value does He place on all people? Who is “the one” in your life who you need to value more than you have been?

Question #3:

How does this parable help teach us how to live in our current world with all that’s going on? What are some practical ways you can live this parable out this week?

Question #4:

Luke 15:1-7 is a parallel passage to Matthew 18:10-14; they convey the same message in different ways. What are some differences between the two passages?

Question #5:

In Luke version, what is the surrounding context of the parable? What were people arguing about? How does this differ from Matthew’s surrounding context?

Question #6:

In this fallen world we will be tempted to neglect “the one” because we think too much of ourselves and/or too little of others. What way is the Spirit using these two passages to convict and mold your heart?

Worship Response:

These passages evoke all sorts of emotions. Pride because we think we’d be the shepherd who went after the one, shame because we know we have been the one who’s neglected the one, and on and on. God designed the Bible is to make us unsettled and to disturb the current state of our souls so that we can be drawn closer to Him.

Take some time to put away all distractions (even music) and slowly turn these passages into prayer, which is a way of responding to God in worship. Let Him convict

you where you need to be convicted and encouraged where you need to be encouraged. The goal of this time is to let God speak, so ask questions and allow time for God to respond.

Further Reading (Optional)

Over the next week, prayerfully read Psalm 51, Isaiah 41:10, and 2 Chronicles 16:9. These are passages about repentance and asking God for help. Each day, allow these passages to guide you toward being God's hands and feet for "the one" as well as resting in His promise to help *you*.