

Text: Luke 15:3-4

Intro: The search for a soul, as Jesus describes, is not just a record-keeping operation. It's a love affair. There is nothing impersonal about it. (*Lk 15:1,2*)

1. **THE HARVEST...**

A) A sinner is God's business. (*Lk 15:7*) The satisfaction of a believer is not his insides... It is obedience, "going after that which is lost." (*Lk 15:5*) It cannot be a vague search. Your search is for one human being.

B) The believer is the hunter. If the sinner were searching for God, the sinner would not be lost. A lost sheep knows he is lost. But he never returns of himself - He must be hunted.

2. **THE ONE...**

A) Nothing is as erroneous as the notion that sinners want to come to church. That's the last place they are looking for. The lost sheep runs at the sight of even a friend's face. Sinners are afraid to go to church.

B) Jesus said to Nathanael (*Jn 1:48*)

3. **THE SHEPHERD...**

A) I want to underline the Shepherd's strength in saving. (*Lk 15:5 NKJV*) (*Heb 7:25*) He will take you all the way. You depend upon His strength. The shoulder is the symbol of strength.

B) I thank God for the Shepherd's shoulder. I can't make it by myself. I think this is one of the great fears—I can't make it. The sheep didn't even have to hold on. That was the Shepherd's job. (*2 Tim 1:12*) (*Ro 8:38,39*) (*Jude 24, 25*) (*Lk 15:6*)

C) The work of redemption is never meant to be drudgery. It's a passion. It takes heart. (*Gal 2:20*) (*Acts 9:26,27*)

Heaven "goes after" sinners. The reason is simple. They are God's property. They don't belong in hell. They belong in the fold.