

A MOST ASTONISHING FACT ABOUT CHRISTIANITY

Luke 15:4-10

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Of all the religions and faiths in the world there is none that is as astonishing as Christianity. The fact that God should come to seek and to save the lost here on this earth is most astonishing. No one will ever know how much sinful and despairing men and women owe to the two stories that Jesus told about the lost sheep and the lost coin. Why would almighty God care so much about sinful people and go to such extremes to bring them to safety is a most astounding and astonishing thing. Jesus has often been portrayed in paintings as a shepherd with straying sheep and carrying a little lamb in His arms. Sometimes Jesus has been portrayed as sitting down, tired after a long, painful journey, yet there is always a gladness in the picture as the love of God is seen so clearly.

I. JESUS SEEKS THE LOST ONE BY ONE

1. It was a single sheep the shepherd went out to find and it was a single coin the woman searched her house for.
 - There were 99 sheep that were safe, so why worry so much about a single one?
 - There was but a single coin that was lost, so why spend so much time and effort hunting for that one coin?
2. The two parables speak of the concern God has for the recovery of individual people, one by one.
 - Every person is loved by the One who made the stars of heaven.
 - Who can count the stars? Who can pick out a single star from the countless ones in heaven?
 - God knows each separate heart and loves and seeks each one, one by one.
 - With God, souls are not counted in groups, but one by one.

II. NO COST IS TOO GREAT TO FIND THAT LOST ONE

1. When the shepherd went to find that one lost sheep, he knew it would be dangerous, facing the desert, taking his life in his hand, robbers and wild animals were there to endanger him.
 - The shepherd was determined to find that lost sheep and he risked everything to find that lost one.
2. The woman was earnest about finding that lost coin and she spared no pains to find it. She lit a candle, swept her house and kept on till she found that lost coin.
 - God spares no pain or toils to find the lost and bring them home.
3. Jesus, like the shepherd and the woman, is passionately earnest and will continue to seek the lost until they have all been found.
 - Jesus faced danger, took the road to Calvary, no pains, no sorrows were ever avoided in His seeking the lost.
 - Jesus left the believers His example and every believer should follow in His steps.

III. WHERE ARE THE LOST TODAY?

1. There is loss in the house as well as in the fields and desert.
 - In the wilderness, that sheep was lost, far from the safety of the fold and the shepherd.
 - The coin was not lost in the wilderness nor in the street, but in the house, somewhere on a dusty floor perhaps.

- There are multitudes of people lost to the joy of the Gospel and the hopes of God living in foreign countries, where the Lord Jesus has never been known.
 - There are countless people who are like that silver coin, lying lost and useless in the house.
2. Countless have been born in a Christian country, encircled by Christians with Church buildings in sight, have heard the Gospel message all their lives, yet have never yielded their lives to the Lord Jesus.
 - Within the very walls of their "home-land" they are lost, like that woman's coin.
 - Are there any lost coins in YOUR house?

IV. WHAT ARE THE LOST FOUND FOR?

1. When the lost sheep was found, the shepherd carried it in his arms.
 - The found sheep was not driven back to the flock, it was not put under the charge of anybody, just the shepherd.
 - The shepherd happily carried the once lost sheep back home.
2. When the lost coin was found, it was once again useful for the woman's need and she quickly told all her neighbors that she had found the lost coin.
3. Everyone who is saved by Jesus Christ is saved to be of service for there is something that each lost one can do for his/her Savior.
4. Every lost one who is found (believes in the Lord Jesus Christ) is loved and will be eventually carried to his/her everlasting Home the Shepherd has prepared, called Heaven.

CONCLUSION:

1. Only Christianity has a Shepherd who is constantly looking for the lost ones and when finding them, lovingly brings them into the "fold" (God's Family).
2. Only Christianity has someone constantly looking for the lost and when they are found there is much rejoicing and that once lost one is put into service of the "ONE" who found him/her.
3. Believers in Jesus Christ were once lost as a wandering lamb/sheep from the flock but Jesus found each and every one and lovingly brought each believer into His own Family/Flock.
4. Think about it Christian, you have been loved and looked for from the time of your birth and the great Shepherd kept after you until He found you and brought you into His wonderful Family.
5. If YOU are not in the "flock" of Jesus, know that He has been looking for you and wants you very much to be a part of His wonderful "flock"/family.