

Leaving the 99

Rachael Martin 3,18,2016

The Lord gave me this thought to share with others that when Jesus talks about the shepherd leaving the 99 sheep to go after the one sheep that was lost (**Luke 15**) that somehow in this new day and world we live in, the reason for the shepherd leaving has been downplayed over the years. The shepherd left the 99 because he cared for all of his sheep – unconditionally.

As well, the 99 played a significant role in that they rejoiced with the shepherd when he returned with the one sheep, that the shepherd was able to find the sheep and that the sheep was still alive. They weren't jealous or upset because the one got "one on one" treatment. I believe that a lot of us have been sent on missions from the Lord from time to time to go after one who's lost and in doing so, I also wanted to encourage those of you are going after the one that you haven't deserted the others, but you have held to your faith and hope in the Lord that they will be taken care of. You are trusting the Lord that He's got the 99, and He does!

There will be a time of rejoicing, but during the time of reaching out on your own – in leaving the others behind here are some things to remember and to hold onto.

Leaving the 99:

Doesn't make you less of a human

Doesn't mean you can't handle the 99

Doesn't mean you don't care about the 99

Doesn't mean you are giving up on the 99

Doesn't mean that you are prejudice

Doesn't mean that you don't like big crowds

Doesn't mean that you won't be back

Doesn't mean that it's going to be easy

Doesn't always mean that the one will be found or want to be found

Doesn't mean that you have failed if you don't find them or if they hide too well

However,

Leaving the 99:

Does mean that you care enough for one, and you trust that God's got the other 99

Does mean that your heart is for the lost

Does mean that you want to try

Does mean that you are looking trial and fear in the face

Does show that you love all of them

Does show that you can look past to the bigger issues

Does show tremendous growth in character

Does show that you are trusting God will do a work in you and in the one that's lost

Does mean that you're sharing in the further of God's kingdom here on earth

Does mean that you love bigger than you think

I don't know who this is for – it feels like it came out of left field – but I know it's for someone. There are probably a lot more “does” and “doesn't”(s) that I haven't thought about here – and you can fill in the blank as you need. I wanted to encourage each of you who are in a position of leading that it's okay to step out of the crowd and minister one on one once in a while. It's okay to trust others to handle what the Lord has entrusted you with. God will always be better at it anyway! It's okay as a leader to say “I don't know” and it's okay if one doesn't come back if you have done all you can. It's all God's in the long run. I also want to encourage you as a leader to see the growth in the sheep and allow them to move in their giftings. While you are away ministering to the one – something had to happen! It may have been the growth in the body of Christ that you've needed all along and trusting God can never be a bad thing when you leave the 99 – in His hands to go after the one – God will keep watch. He's never let one of us down – and never will. God bless you as you trust Him!!

2016 © www.gatheringathisfeet.org

EMAIL: gahf@gatheringathisfeet.org