



## YOU MATTER TO HIM

August 2020

*"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.*

*"What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish."*

Matthew 18:10-14

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In the parable above, Jesus is telling his disciples about a sheep that had been lost. He speaks to all of us who might at times be wounded, vulnerable, exhausted like the sheep. Unable to keep up, we become separated from the safety of the herd. Separated from Jesus, our Shepherd. We've all been there at times and we probably ended up feeling quite alone and lonely.

Although he has another ninety-nine sheep, the Good Shepherd notices that one sheep had gone missing. In concern, he leaves all the others while he goes searching for the one. Though he has many, he wouldn't let one perish. Each one matters to him.

Using this story, Jesus shows how God cares for us—like children, humble and dependent on him. He tells the disciples that these “little ones” must not be despised. By despised he means “looked down on, considered inferior, not really worth caring for.” “Care equally for each one,” Jesus says, “for the weak ones as much as the strong.”

Does this story sound like Jesus might be talking about you?

Actually it's about anyone who is in need of Jesus' care. Are you one of those? Vulnerable in life, distant from God, not sure of what to believe? We all become like that lost sheep at times. We will need the Good Shepherd to rescue us. He will leave everything to search for you and bring you home.

Just like that lost sheep, you matter to him.

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