

FUSION Devo: Friday, January 9th, 2009

Title: Hide and Seek

Text: 4"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? 5And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' Luke 15:4-6 (NIV)

I can remember as a small child, playing a game of "Hide & Seek" with a group of kids in the neighborhood my mom and I were living in at the time. I was new the neighborhood and these were all kids that had grown up together. And here I was. The "New" kid. I was just trying to make friends and get to know these new kids. I was probably 7 years old and I was as wide and I was tall. So, due to the often meanness of children, it was always a struggle to make friends initially.

So, we were all standing there and one of the older kids said that he would be "It." Then he told the rest of us to all run off and hide. The rest of us, probably a group of about 10, took off running through the yards and woods looking for the prime hiding spot. I remember trying to hide with one of the other kids. But he quickly shoved me back and told me that there wasn't any room for me. I eventually found a place to hide. I was all by myself. In a new place and I had never felt more alone.

Time went by and it was dead quiet. I couldn't hear a thing as I lay underneath a dead tree lying on the ground, sometime in the winter. It was freezing cold and I was alone. The minutes continued to drift by and still no one. My initial joy of obviously finding the best hiding spot began to change to a sense of just being forgotten.

Eventually I heard a voice in the woods. It was faint at first. But I could make out what the voice was saying. It was yelling "Steve! Steve! Where are you!?" I poked my head out from under a branch to see if I could see anyone, but it was getting dark. The voice got a louder and louder and I finally plucked myself from beneath the tree and stood up. I saw the person. It was one of the older kids in the group of hide and seekers. I yelled back and he turned and saw me. He began to run towards me. I had no idea what his name was, but I had never been more thrilled to see someone in my life. He finally arrived at me and said. "Dude! There you are. I've been looking everywhere for you." Even at the young age of 7, I was stunned by his words. This guy had been looking for... me. Wow. All of the other kids had run off and never given me another thought. But this guy, instead of joining the crowd, searched for me.

God is the very same way. Have you ever felt alone? Have you ever wandered off and tried to hide from the pack? Have you sat there and wondered if anyone really cared? Well, if you have, or if you do. I want you to know that God is searching for you. That God's love is so deep for you that He will never give up looking for his sheep.

As we see in today's scripture, God will leave the 99 sheep to go and look for the one that drifted from the pack. Instead of thinking that losing just 1 of the 99 is pretty good. So, why worry about it. God wants all of us with him.

So, as you make your way through this life. Please know that God is seeking you. God is seeking a relationship with you. And if you ever feel like you are all alone in this world, please know that someone is seeking you. Can you hear it?

Something to Think About:

- Have you ever felt all alone and like no one cares?
- What helped you make it through that time?
- Do you know of someone who is all alone and in need of someone to find them?
- How can your relationship with God help you seek the lost?

A Few Minutes With God:

God, How wonderful are you and I come before you now thanking you for always seeking me. When I walk away a try to hide myself from you, in the midst of the dark world, I pray that you will enable me to tune out all of the distractions and hear your voice calling for me. I also pray that you will strengthen me and give me the opportunity to seek others who are lost in the wilderness. Thank you for not giving me. I pray I will never give up on you. Amen.