

SERMON TITLE	The Lost Presbyterian
TIME	Family Worship Sunday
PREACHER	The Rev. Vicki Homes
LOCATION	Summerside Presbyterian Church, Summerside, Prince Edward Island
DATE PREACHED	May 28, 2006
SCRIPTURES	Ezekiel 34:11-13 & 30-31 Matthew 18:10-14

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Ezekiel 34:11-13 & 30-31

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹² As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land.

They shall know that I, the Lord their God, am with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are my people, says the Lord God. ³¹You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, and I am your God, says the Lord God.

Matthew 18:10-14

Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. ¹² What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴ So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

Focus Scripture –

*“So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost”
(Matthew 18:14)*

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So it is not the **WILL** of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost. [Matthew 18:14]

Each week we pray...Our Father who art in Heaven, Hallowed by Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come,
Thy Will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

“It is not the **will of the Father** in heaven that even one should be lost!!!”

Not even one...

Let me tell you a little story...it happened when I was visiting Ontario a few weeks ago.

I found a missing Presbyterian...right here from Summerside. Now I say she is missing because I don't think she comes here. And I don't know her name. But this is what I do know!

That it all took place in the hallway of my mother's apartment building in Oshawa.

This is how the story goes as my mother told it.

“You will never believe it Vicki! What a small world”, my mom uttered as she came back from the laundry room.

On the way back from the laundry room my mom met a woman from her building. They had a nice chat and my mother shared that I was up visiting from PEI”

And the lady said, “Is that the daughter that is the minister”

And my mom said, yes...

And the lady said...well what a coincidence because my daughter who lives in Toronto has a room mate and her roommate's sister is up here now from PEI.
She's from Summerside too?

Summerside? – That is where my daughter lives my mom exclaimed.

“And what church is your daughter the minister of?” the lady asked.

And my mother said “the Presbyterian Church”!

And the lady said “this girl is Presbyterian too” !

Here I was on holidays from church and yet the wheels were turning. I was thinking...Hmm – I wonder who this is?

My mom didn't ask her name so this was all I had. There is a woman who lives in Summerside who is Presbyterian and has a sister in Toronto who she recently visited.

I thought about this story as I read scripture? Who is this person? Do we know her? Is she from our pews? Does she go to our church? Does she know where our church is???

Maybe she is lost? Do you think she is lost?

And what does it mean to be a "Lost Presbyterian".
Is she lost...because she has not found her way to church?

OR ???

Is she lost...because WE have not gone searching for her?

Do you think there are other Presbyterians who are lost?

Maybe they feel lost because no one has ever gone looking for them for years. Maybe they feel lost – because they are sitting right beside you this morning and we don't even know their name.

Maybe they feel lost, because they grew up in the old church – and NO ONE told them where the new church is. No one told them.

And there might be other PRESBYTERIANS THAT ARE LOST TOO!!

They might be living next door to you, or down the street or around the corner...**BUT WE DON'T KNOW...**

WHY??? Because we have not gone looking for them.

Jesus said...

"It is not the **will of the Father** in heaven that even one should be lost!!!"

Not even one.....

Now you may be thinking – well how many could there be? How many Lost Presbyterians could there be in Summerside.

10 – 20 – 30 -50...we don't know...

BUT THIS IS WHAT WE DO KNOW!

We know that there is at **LEAST ONE**.

And we do know it is a she.

And we do know that she has family in Ontario.

And we do know that she lives with a roommate, whose mother lives in Oshawa, in the same building as our minister's mother.

So what do we do?

The children today – had the answers quickly...thanks kids!

What do you do when **YOU** are lost?

- ◆ **You ask for help!!! You ask for direction!**

And what do you do when someone **ELSE** is lost?

- ◆ **You look for them!! It is as simple as that!**

So let us ask God for help today. The God who tells us that none of his sheep will be lost. Not one.

Let us ask for his help.

If you are feeling lost today...just ask for help from God for your self.

For God does not want you to be lost...

God wants you to be found.

If you are **FEELING LOST** ...just ask God, for help today!

- ◆ Help me O Lord. I am **LOST!** Help me to find my way back to you!
- ◆ Help me O Lord, to find your **CHURCH**...to find my way back again!
- ◆ Help me O **LORD** to get my feet back on the right path! The path that leads to you... As a **CHURCH** we have a job to do today...a Godly assignment!

Because **NOW WE KNOW** that there is at least **ONE LOST PRESBYTERIAN** in Summerside. We **TOO** must ask for God's help!

- ◆ Help us O Lord to find those who are **LOST** in our community!
- ◆ Help us O Lord to find those who have **LOST** their way!
- ◆ Help us O Lord to find those who are **LOST** in our own congregation. Help us to look for those we **DO NOT KNOW**...
- ◆ Help us to **ASK THEM TO COME!**

Lead us to them O Loving God, because that is **YOUR WILL**...that one, **NOT EVEN ONE** of your precious children shall be lost.

It is God's Will! Let us make it our #1 priority.

Amen!