

## The joy of being trusted?

How do you feel when someone trusts you to get something done for them? No need to give you a lot of instruction, as you are trusted to work it out yourself. And the height of being trusted, is that even if you do a bad job, there won't be any hard feelings. The unsaid part of being trusted is that you can always make amends next time. Given that kind of trust what do you make of it? Does it give you confidence to help? Or does it make you nervous?

This weekend we consider the parable of the lost sheep. A perennial favourite for school assemblies and children's activities. Certainly one of the nicer of Jesus' parables. It's all about the goodness of God who cares a great deal for each of his flock. Nothing radical or challenging to grapple with. Or maybe that's not the case? It should be seen as radical. Radical love. Too often God is still seen as a deity who requires unstinting obedience as the first step to salvation. Well that's the wrong way around. God's love and respect for each person comes first, and our response comes after that, and is a lifetimes journey. On top of this there is actually a real challenge too which takes me back to trust.

In the story Jesus tells of the shepherd leaving behind the ninety nine sheep who are safe and sound. So, the flock are left unattended! Is there a secondary message to be heard about trust. In seeking the lost God trusts his people to hold the fort. To represent him whilst God focusses on other things. Now I don't suggest that God has a limited capacity, but that we are trusted to be good ambassadors. The whole Gospel illustrates this concept. Jesus walked among us for a limited time before leaving his followers to write the next chapters in an ever growing story. God trusts us to represent him in our families and communities. Indeed anywhere we have some influence however small.



Wow what a privilege to be trusted by the living God. Not that God needs the help, just chooses to work as a team player with you and I!