



UNDER HIS WINGS

SEASON 3

EPISODE 47– Wandering Sheep Are Not Lost to The Shepherd

SHOW NOTE HIGHLIGHTS

Episode Show Notes

We should prepare to leave the “ninety and nine” and to go seeking the one (see Luke 15:1–7); to search the house to reclaim the lost coin (see Luke 15:8–10); and to welcome home even one who has wasted our goods in riotous living (see Luke 15:11–32). We have 4 suggestions on how you can do this:

1. Seek the Lord
2. Recognize the Spirit and heed those promptings
3. Remember that we are not abandoned
4. Never Give Up

Hope for Parents of Wayward Children

Joseph Smith (1805–44) First President of the Church: “The Prophet Joseph Smith declared—and he ever taught a more comforting doctrine—that the eternal sealings of faithful parents and the divine promises made to them for valiant service in the Cause of Truth, would save not only themselves, but likewise their posterity. Though some of the sheep may wander, the eye of the Shepherd is upon them, and sooner or later they will feel the tentacles of Divine Providence reaching out after them and drawing them back to the fold. Either in this life or the life to come, they will return. They will have to pay their debt to justice; they will suffer for their sins; and may tread a thorny path; but if it leads them at last, like the penitent Prodigal, to a loving and forgiving father’s heart and home, the painful experience will not have been in vain. Pray for your careless and disobedient children; hold on to them with your faith. Hope on, trust on, till you see the salvation of God” (Orson F. Whitney, in Conference Report, Apr. 1929, 110).

Brigham Young (1801–77) Second President of the Church: “Let the father and mother, who are members of this Church and Kingdom, take a righteous course, and strive with all their might never to do a wrong, but to do good all their lives; if they have one child or one hundred children, if they conduct themselves towards them as they should, binding them to the Lord by their faith and prayers, I care not where those children go, they are bound up to their parents by an everlasting tie, and no power of earth or hell can separate them from their parents in eternity; they will return again to the fountain from whence they sprang” (quoted in Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, comp. Bruce R. McConkie, 3 vols. [1954–56], 2:90–91).

Lorenzo Snow (1814–1901) Fifth President of the Church: “If you succeed in passing through these trials and afflictions and receive a resurrection, you will, by the power of the Priesthood, work, and labor, as the Son of God has, until you get all your sons and daughters in the path of exaltation and glory. This is just as sure as that the sun rose this morning over yonder mountains. Therefore, mourn not because all your sons and daughters do not follow in the path that you have marked out to them, or give heed to your counsels. Inasmuch as we succeed in securing eternal glory, and stand as saviors, and as kings and priests to our God, we will save our posterity” (in *Collected Discourses*, comp. Brian H. Stuy, 5 vols. [1987–92], 3:364).

Boyd K. Packer-Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: “The measure of our success as parents ... will not rest solely on how our children turn out. That judgment would be just only if we could raise our families in a perfectly moral environment, and that now is not possible. It is not uncommon for responsible parents to lose one of their children, for a time, to influences over which they have no control. They agonize over rebellious sons or daughters. They are puzzled over why they are so helpless when they have tried so hard to do what they should. It is my conviction that those wicked influences one day will be overruled. We cannot overemphasize the value of temple marriage, the binding ties of the sealing ordinance, and the standards of worthiness required of them. When parents keep the covenants, they have made at the altar of the temple, their children will be forever bound to them” (“Our Moral Environment,” *Ensign*, May 1992, 68).



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EPISODE 46– Parental Wisdom from Carleen Tanner—Developing Healthy Attachments

SHOW NOTE HIGHLIGHTS

Elder Orson F. Whitney “You parents of the willful and the wayward! Don’t give them up. Don’t cast them off. They are not utterly lost. The Shepherd will find his sheep. They were his before they were yours —long before he entrusted them to your care; and you cannot begin to love them as he loves them. They have but strayed in ignorance from the Path of Right, and God is merciful to ignorance. Only the fulness of knowledge brings the fulness of accountability. Our Heavenly Father is far more merciful, infinitely more charitable, than even the best of his servants, and the Everlasting Gospel is mightier in power to save than our narrow finite minds can comprehend”.

President Boyd K. Packer provided a comforting context and affirmation of the promise to faithful parents. In discussing the “moral pollution” of the last days, he said: “It is not uncommon for responsible parents to lose one of their children, for a time, to influences over which they have no control. They agonize over rebellious sons and daughters. They are puzzled over why they are so helpless when they have tried so hard to do what they should. It is my conviction that those wicked influences one day will be overruled. . . We cannot overemphasize the value of temple marriage, the binding ties of the sealing ordinance, and the standards of worthiness required of them. When parents keep the covenants, they have made at the altar of the temple, their children will be forever bound to them” (Conference Report, April 1992, 94-95).

Joseph Smith: “The great Jehovah contemplated the whole of the events connected with the earth, pertaining to the plan of salvation, before it rolled into existence, or ever ‘the morning stars sang together’ for joy [Job 38:7]; the past, the present, and the future were and are, with Him, one eternal ‘now;’ He knew of the fall of Adam, the iniquities of the antediluvians [those who lived before the Great Flood], of the depth of iniquity that would be connected with the human family, their weakness and strength, their power and glory, apostasies, their crimes, their righteousness and iniquity; He comprehended the fall of man, and his redemption; He knew the plan of salvation and pointed it out; He was acquainted with the situation of all nations and with their destiny; He ordered all things according to the counsel of His own will; He knows the situation of both the living and the dead, and has made ample provision for their redemption, according to their several circumstances, and the laws of the kingdom of God, whether in this world, or in the world to come.”

Final thoughts:

And so, because we are mortal and cannot see the end from the beginning, when a child wanders, we fret and ache and sometimes despair. But there is hope smiling brightly before us, hope that springs forth from the elevated perspective provided by the power of the gospel covenant. Truly, as the Prophet Joseph Smith taught, “There is never a time when the spirit is too old to approach God. All are within the reach of pardoning mercy, who have not committed the unpardonable sin” (History of the Church 4:425;).

And so, we wait, we watch, we fast and pray, and we continue to lift our voices heavenward. And, perhaps most importantly, we continue to love those who wander, and we never, never give up hope. There is a God in heaven who is our Eternal Father, and he lives in the family unit. He cares about ours. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, will go in search of his lost sheep. The gospel covenant is broad and deep and penetrating as eternity, and there are righteous forces at work that are beyond our capacity to perceive or comprehend. I know, with all my heart, that “the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man [or woman] availeth much”

And so, we must continue to hold onto our wandering sheep with our faith and prayers. Believing, hoping, and trusting that in the end all will work out as we cheerfully do all that lies in our power; And then may we stand still with the utmost assurance, to see the salvation of God and for his arm to be revealed. (D&C 123:17)