

**Five Traits of Kingdom Citizens—Part 3**  
**“Compassion”**  
**Matthew 18:12-14**

**Humility**—Matt. 18:3-4; cf. James 4:6; cf. Ps. 138:6; Prov. 3:34; Matt. 23:12; 1 Peter 5:5)

**Self-Control**—Matt. 18:8-9; cf. Prov. 26:11; 2 Peter 2:22; Mark 8:34-37

**Verse 11**—Scribal Error (Luke 19:10; Matt. 9:13)

**I. A Q\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 12)**

- a. Compassion = “Deep awareness of the suffering of another accompanied by the wish to relieve it.” (AHD; Matt. 9:36; 14:14; 15:32)
- b. A shepherd is one of the most prolific images for God’s relationship to His people (cf. Ps. 23:1; 100:3; Matt. 2:6; John 10:14; Isa. 40:11; Zech. 13:7; Micah 5:2; Matt. 9:36; 26:31; Mark 6:34; John 10:11; Matt.; Heb. 13:20; 1 Peter 5:4)
- c. **What do you think?** = a rabbinic teaching phrase (cf. Matt. 17:25; 21:28; 22:17, 42)
- d. Eastern Shepherds, unlike their western counterparts, lead from out front, name their sheep, and didn’t treat them like merely livestock
- e. **The Characters:**
  - i. **man** = God
  - ii. **a hundred sheep** = His church
  - iii. **one of them has gone astray** = a Believer in unrepentant sin
- f. **The Conclusions:**
  - i. God has compassion for His each of His individual sheep (cf. Matt. 9:9; Luke 19:5-6; John 10:3, 14-15, 27; 11:43; 20:16)
  - ii. Believers are still sinners, prone to sin and leave God (Rom. 7:14-25)

iii. God’s Compassion compels Him to go after a sinning Believer

**II. An A\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 13)**

- a. The sheep was lost and now he is found!!
- b. **truly I say to you** = meant to draw special attention
- c. The Shepherd’s Reaction = **he rejoices**
  - i. Not that He loves the lost sheep more, but that He is so happy to see him back and out of danger.
- d. **The Conclusion:** God’s Compassion causes Him to rejoice greatly when one of His redeemed sheep is rescued from unrepentant sin (cf. Matt. 18:15-20; 2 Cor. 2:7; 2 Thess. 3:15; Gal. 6:1; Heb. 12:13; James 5:19-20)

**III. A R\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 14)**

- a. Jesus reveals a foundational truth about God
- b. **The Conclusion:** It is God’s will that not one of His redeemed children will ever perish (Eternal Security of the Believer; cf. John 3:16; 6:39; 10:27-29; 11:25; Rom. 8:31-39; Eph. 1:13-14; Heb. 6:18-20; 7:25; 2 Peter 3:9)
  - i. **little ones** = Believers or God’s redeemed children (cf. Matt. 18:6, 10, 14)
  - ii. **perish** = *apollymi* (ἀπόλλυμι) = “to lose something which one already possesses” or “to destroy, ruin, cause destruction”