

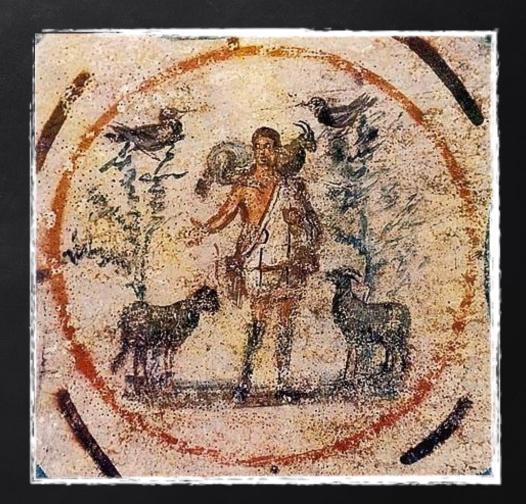
PART 4

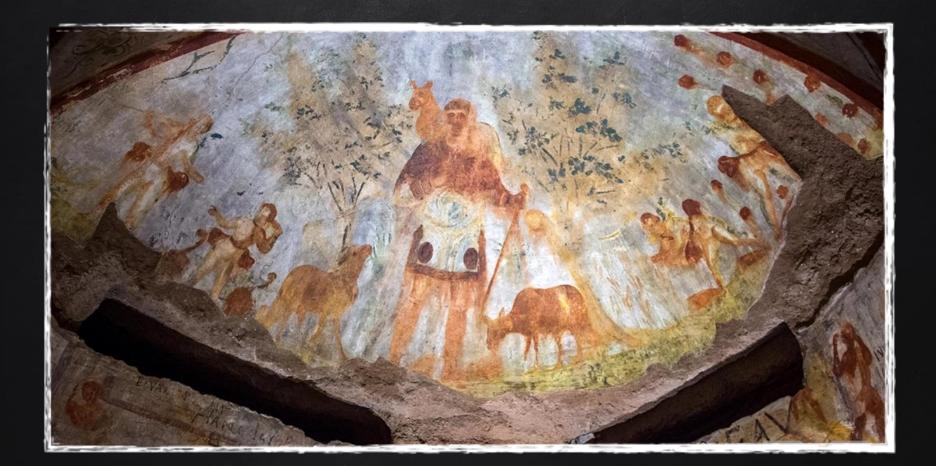
"Loving,
Passionate
Pursuit"

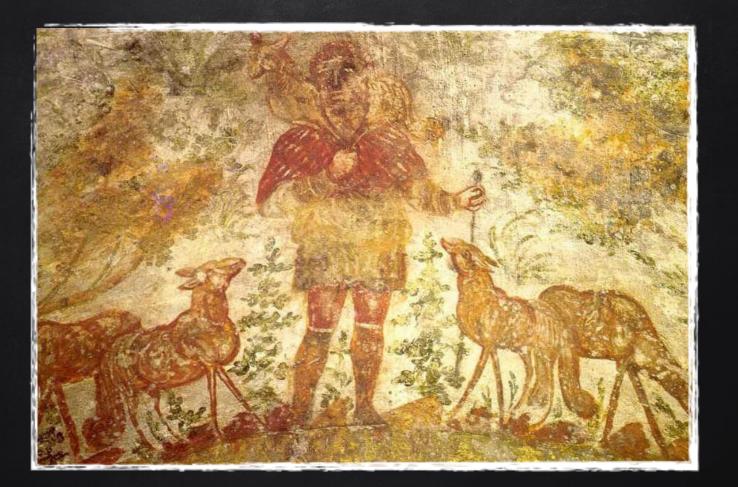
Luke 15:1-7

• GOSPEL HOSPITALITY is costly, self-giving love that elevates another person and allows them to be welcomed in as God's honored guest.

The Good Shepherd













The Good Shepherd



Luke 15:1-3

1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Jesus. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." 3 So he told them this parable:

Luke 15:4-6

4 "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninetynine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost."

The shepherd accepts responsibility for the loss, even though surely the sheep played a role in the wandering.

"Does the the lost individual matter or are 'the people' alone important? Indeed, it is the shepherd's willingness to go after the one that give the ninety-nine their real security. If the one is sacrificed in the name of the larger good of the group, then each individual in the group is insecure, knowing that he or she too is of little value. If lost, he or she will be left to die. When the shepherd pays a high price to find the one, he thereby offers the profoundest security to the many." (Ken Bailey)

The shepherd searches without regard for the cost.

The shepherd rejoices in the burden of restoration.

The shepherd teaches us to celebrate.

Luke 15:7

7 "Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

According to Jesus, to repent is to accept being found.