

Ninety Nine
Matthew 18:12-14

"The Ninety And Nine" #123

Written by Elizabeth Cecelia Douglas Clephane, born Edinburgh, Scotland, June 18, 1830. Orphaned by the death of their father, she and her two sisters settled at Melrose. From youth, Elizabeth was in frail health, but to the limit of her ability, she served the poor and sick in Melrose. It is believed Miss Clephane wrote the words for "The Ninety and Nine," especially for children, shortly death in February 1868. Her poems were published from 1872 to 1878 under the title "Breathings from the Border" in The Family Magazine, a Scottish Presbyterian magazine. This was the first, and best-known hymn, "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" was the last. This poem was also printed in The Children's Hour in 1872.

It was seen by Ira David Sankey, song director for revival evangelist Dwight L. Moody in Scotland for campaigns, in a newspaper he purchased as they were getting on the train. Moody ask Sankey to lead a song fitting for his sermon, "The Good Shepherd." Thinking of nothing suitable, he pulled out the poem clipping and began to sing. The tune came to him as he sang and has remained unchanged to the present day. It was made famous by Sankey and Moody during their crusades throughout Great Britain in 1873 and 1874. It was first published in Sankey's Sacred Songs and Solos of 1874.

Shepherd Loves Us

Stanza 1 - There were ninety and nine that safely lay In the shelter of the fold, But one was out on the hills away, far off from the gates of gold; Away on the mountains wild and bare, Away from the tender Shepherd's care, Away from the tender Shepherd's care.

Jesus sees each sheep astray on mountains - **John 10:1; Romans 3:23; 1Peter 2:25**

Shepherd Desires Return

Stanza 2 - Lord, Thou hast here Thy ninety and nine, Are they not enough for Thee? But the Shepherd made answer: "This of mine Has wandered away from me, And altho' the road be rough and steep, I go to the desert to find my sheep, I go to the desert to find my sheep."

Came to seek and save lost. Each is precious in His sight - **Luke 19:10; 1Timothy 2:3-4; Isaiah 55:6-7**

Shepherd Suffers

Stanza 3 - But none of the ransomed ever knew How deep were the waters crossed Nor how dark was the night that the Lord passed thru Ere He found His sheep that was lost. Far out in the desert He heard its cry, 'Twas sick and helpless and ready to die, 'Twas sick and helpless and ready to die.

Left heaven to suffer, wants us with Him - **Philippians 3:5-8; Hebrews 2:9; Mark 2:17; Luke 15:1-4**

Shepherd Sacrifice

Stanza 4 - Lord, whence are those blooddrops all the way That marks out the mountain's track? "They were shed for one who had gone astray Ere the Shepherd could bring Him back." "Lord, whence are Thy hands so rent and torn? They're pierced tonight by many a thorn, They're pierced tonight by many a thorn."

Blood is necessary to forgiveness. Jesus willingly gave - **Hebrews 9:22; Matthew 26:28; 2Peter 3:9**

Rejoicing At Restoration

Stanza 5 - But all thru the mountains, thunderriv'n And up from the rocky steep, There arose a glad cry to the gate of heav'n, "Rejoice, I have found My sheep." And the angels echoed around the throne, "Rejoice, for the Lord brings back His own, Rejoice, for the Lord brings back His own."

Joy tho suffered. Heaven rejoices at repentance - **Ephesians 2:1-13; Hebrews 12:1-2; Luke 15:5-7**

God Pursues Each Lost One

Jesus, Good Shepherd, seeks and sacrifices for all His sheep.

Do I reflect this compassion toward the lost? Am I one of the lost? -- WayneWalker