

## THE PARABLE OF THE WAYWARD EWE

by Robert Fitt

Behold, a wayward ewe did leave her flock and strayed among a herd of goats for a time; but, seeing the danger, she did leave the goats to find safety among her flock.

Other ewes, however, learning of her wanderings, did shame her by secretive whisperings.

Feeling exposed and vulnerable—her reputation tainted—the wayward ewe did seek refuge again among the goats, even until she did begin to resemble a goat.

In her flock the scandalized ewes did shun her, and tongues wagged the more.

Rejected, unwanted and alone, the ewe did leave her flock of sheep, and sought out the company of an accepting herd of goats; insomuch that she began to act like a goat.

Then did the offended sheep rail upon her, shredding her tender heart with sharpened tongues.

The wayward ewe—despondent, stricken with guilt, loneliness, and anguish—did begin to believe that she was no longer acceptable to the shepherd and plunged deeper into goat-like behavior.

Another ewe (whose wool was black) learning of her pain, did reach out to the wayward sheep, and did extend love without condition, did bind her wounds, lift her spirits, and heal her heart.

In whom was god pleased?