



Daily Reflections

November 8, 2018

Scripture

Luke 15: 1-10

The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying,

"This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus addressed this parable to them.

"What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it?

And when he does find it,

he sets it on his shoulders with great joy

and, upon his arrival home,

he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them,

'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.'

I tell you, in just the same way

there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents

than over ninety-nine righteous people

who have no need of repentance.

"Or what woman having ten coins and losing one

would not light a lamp and sweep the house,

searching carefully until she finds it?

And when she does find it,

she calls together her friends and neighbors

and says to them,

'Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost.'

In just the same way, I tell you,

there will be rejoicing among the angels of God

over one sinner who repents."

Our Scripture Reflection

I can only imagine what Jesus' listeners who were familiar with the business of shepherding must have thought of His example of a Shepherd leaving 99 sheep to go look for one stray. They would have thought He was joking! No prudent Shepherd would do such a thing. He would risk losing even more sheep in doing so. The same goes for a woman who lost one virtually worthless copper coin. Too much work for her search and then too much expense to have a celebration upon finding the coin. But Jesus sees things differently. Reminiscent of God's words in Isaiah 55: 8-9 (My ways are not your ways; My thoughts are not your thoughts) Jesus' teaching makes the point that each of us is of immeasurable value in God's eyes. That's why He sent His only Son to give His life for us.

Food for your Journey

Some weeks ago we came home from church and discovered that my husband's wedding ring was missing. Needless to say, we canceled the plans we had for the afternoon and went to work searching the house. With hope

fading we even took the sink apart on the chance that it had slipped off while washing his hands. After several hours we found it, not in the drain pipe, but on the cushion where Bill had gently laid our sleeping son. And I can assure you, there was great rejoicing!

Now things go lost in our house on a regular basis, and we don't drop everything to search until we find them, unless it is my car keys or someone's shoes, but I digress. We call in the search party only when something extremely valuable is lost. Otherwise we don't bother wasting the time and just hope that it turns up on its own.

Of course Jesus' parable of the lost coin is about the lost sinner who repents and thus is found. Everything depends on how much value we place on the lost. If we see people who don't know Christ as individuals dearly loved by God, then we will work tirelessly until they are found. On the other hand, if we don't care much about them, we won't try very hard to find them.

—Kari Myers. "The lost coin." The Link, May 2006,

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd Who came to seek out and save those who are lost. You gave Your life to do so. Help me to show my gratitude by repenting of my sins and changing my life so that I may live as You want me to live. Amen