

11 September 2016

SEVENTEENTH
SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

The lost are
found



TAKING
FAITH
home

The lost sheep and the lost coin | LOVE GOD

Luke 15: 1-10

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

At first glance, these parables may simply be stories about something lost that was found... a missing sheep, a lost coin...however, Jesus says *"I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent"*. The one lost sheep has not simply strayed a short distance from the flock of the righteous, is not an anonymous sheep but one very special to the shepherd. It had become lost. Worth searching for and rejoicing over.

10 silver coins were traditionally hung together and worn as a bride's dowry. They showed her status as a married woman of wealth and faithfulness. The loss of one of them would be a disaster beyond the face value of the coins. They were significant to her place in the community. Even one lost coin was worth searching for and rejoicing over.



share

your highs & lows of the day.



read

and highlight the daily readings in your Bible.

S	Luke 15:1-10	The lost sheep and the lost coin
M	John 10:11-18	Jesus, the good shepherd
T	Judges 10:6-16	The Israelites repent
W	Ezra 9:1-5, 10:1-12	The people of Israel confess
T	Romans 5:1-11	Christ died for sinners
F	2 Peter 3:8-13	That all may come to repentance
S	Psalms 85	Restore us again, O God
S	Luke 16:1-13	Parable of the shrewd manager



talk

- about how the daily Bible reading relates to your highs & lows.
- Share about a time when you lost something really special. How did you react?
- Read the parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15:3-7). How do people get "lost" from God? How does God respond?
- What does it mean to repent? How does God treat those who repent?



pray

for your highs & lows, for your family and for the world.



bleSS

one another. Share this week's blessing (below) or make up your own.

(Name) You are God's treasured possession. Amen

FAITH 5