



Sept. 15, 2019 Lk. 15: 1-10 & Ex. 32: 7-14

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Fr. Robert Beck ([subscription](#))

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ENTERING THE SCENE:

Back in the 4th Sunday of Lent we encountered the two sons of the prodigal father in Lk. 15. Today in the alternate reading we pick up on the part of that chapter that we omitted then, that of the lost sheep and the lost coin. Lost and found. The theme of today's reading. Jesus presents us with an image of God that refuses to let anyone or anything go without endless offers of restoration. When we too "come to our senses" we realize that life in one long progression of offers of unconditional

love. We must reject all those images of God that are smaller than this one if we are to accept Jesus' understanding of God. Like the people in this parable, he wants everyone to "rejoice with me" that the one who thought they were lost, were never truly lost to God, and only lost in their too small understanding of God.

LK 15:1-32

1. The **tax collectors** and the **sinners** were all gathering around Jesus to hear him, 2. at which the **Pharisees** and the **scribes** murmured, "This man welcomes **sinners** and eats with them." 3 Then he addressed this parable to them: 4 suppose **one of you** has a **hundred sheep** and **loses one** of them. Does he not leave the **ninety-nine** in the open country and go after the **lost sheep** until he **finds** it? 5 And when he finds it, he **joyfully** puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his **friends** and **neighbors** together and says, '**Rejoice** with me; I have **found** my **lost** sheep.' 7 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**. 8 Or suppose a **woman** has **ten silver coins** and **loses one**. Does she not **light a lamp**, **sweep the house** and **search** carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she **finds** it, she calls her **friends** and **neighbors** together and says, '**Rejoice** with me; I have found my **lost coin**.' 10 In the same way, I tell you, there is **rejoicing** in the presence of the angels of God over **one sinner** who **repents**."

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Jesus teaches that God will stop at nothing to find anyone that is lost. Does this reassure you or distress you?

PRAYER: And so / by every fire and shore, / in market place and on hillside, / with the children of the street / and the masters of the law / Jesus told stories of God / which were really stories of people / ...who were searching with the eyes of God / like a housewife atwit, / her money somewhere but where, / scouring the house with a candle when / suddenly / the coin leaps from its hiding place / into her eye. / or who were laughing with the mouth of God / like shepherds, / their beards dripping beer, / retelling the story of the lost lamb / suddenly / found and slung / over the returning shoulders of joy. Lord, please give me a loving heart that can rejoice with God when someone who was lost is found. Amen.

Shea, John. [Stories of Faith](#). Chicago. Thomas More Press. 1980, Page 203-4.