

## Gospel

### The 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C (Luke 15:1-24.)

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders



and then, when he got home, call together his friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," he would say "I have found my sheep that was lost."

**In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine good men who have no need of repentance.**

'Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," she would say "I have found the drachma I lost." **In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.'**

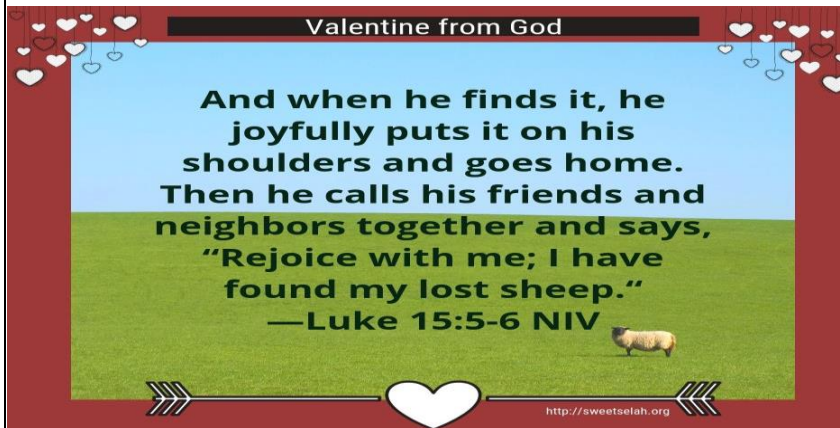


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woman was frantic about losing one coin out of ten. Even though it was only one sheep or one coin, it was still very important and valuable to the person who had lost it.

In the same way as in the stories, all people are valuable to God, because God made us and loves us. We are all different and we are all special to God and He will search for us when we have lost our way. No matter what we do God will forgive us and take us back.

God cares for us and loves us. He wants us to do what is right. But sometimes we don't listen, we are not very generous, and we can be mean to others, or we do other things we know are wrong. At these times we're a bit like the sheep or the coin that is lost, because we are turning away from God. This doesn't mean that God loves and cares for us any less. God loves us and watches over us always. And when we see that we have done something wrong and we can ask for forgiveness and turn back to God, God is happy and welcomes us back and celebrate because we are no longer lost.



## Reflection:

In the Gospel this week Jesus responds to those who criticize him for keeping company with the unworthy.

The Gospel tells us how God welcomes us, loves us and forgives us all. So what does this mean for us in our lives?

In the stories, the shepherd was really concerned when he lost one sheep out of a hundred and the

## Post-it Challenge:

How many times have we started the day with good intentions - to do the right thing, to help others, to be kind to everyone, respectful to our parents?

How many times have we failed in our good intentions and lost our way?

- ✚ **What do these Gospel stories tell us about God's love and forgiveness?**
- ✚ **What do you think they mean for how we should treat other people?**
- ✚ **Write down one thing that you can do this week to help others and stand out from the crowd.**

## Let us pray:

*Forgiving God,  
So often we get  
distracted by  
everyday things  
and are too busy to  
put you first. Yet  
you never stop  
loving us, and so  
we thank you for  
always searching  
for us and never  
giving up on us.  
You are our Shepherd and we are your  
sheep.*

*You know all our sins and failures,  
our weaknesses and temptations. Forgive  
us, accept us, strengthen us, now and  
always. Amen.*

