

Childhood Bible Stories

Week #5: All Our Losses

Luke 15:1-10 (NRSV)

15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Questions for Reflection:

Why do you think the “Pharisees and scribes were grumbling” about Jesus welcome to “sinners”? Why do you think this detail is included here? Why is this significant?

Why do you think these stories focus on the one lost sheep and the one lost coin when ninety-nine and nine coins are secure? What does this mean to you? Do you see significance in this for your life?

Why do you think Jesus tells these stories? What do think he wants to teach those who were listening to him? What can we learn from these stories in our time?

The focal point of these stories is joy. Where do you find joy in your life? What do these stories teach you about the nature of joy? How will you respond?

What significance do you see in this passage for your life and the life of the church?