

Service for Week 8th -14th Sept 2025

By Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, before we ever loved you, you loved us, before we ever looked for you, you were seeking us out. Always you have been there taking the initiative, just as you did throughout your ministry and even at the time of your death.

In love you offered your life and in love you continue to reach out to us. To you be praise and glory.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
for ever and ever.

Amen

Bible Reading Luke 15:1-10

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. 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. Does he not 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 neighbors 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.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

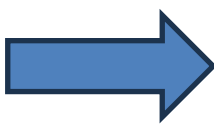
"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is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

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

There was a large crowd who followed Jesus wherever he went – and Jesus when he talked, often told a story with a message. The stories Jesus told were about the everyday things in the lives of the people that lived in Judea at that time.

They were mainly farming people and fishermen who lived off the land and



the sea. So, when Jesus started talking about a shepherd and his sheep they wanted to listen – because many of them would be farmers, shepherds or owners of land and kept animals such as sheep.

Jesus tells them this story: He says - "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. What would he do? Well, he would leave the ninety-nine sheep in the open country and go searching for the lost sheep until he finds it. When he finds it, he is very happy and he puts the sheep across his shoulders and goes home. Then what does he do? He calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Come and celebrate with me for I have found my lost sheep.'

Then Jesus says - I tell you this - in the same way there will be a great rejoicing in heaven over one person who is lost and then repents of their sins.

Jesus then, perhaps addressing the women there, tells them a different story with a message-about a situation which was more familiar to them. Houses then had small window openings with no glass in them and were therefore quite dark inside. Jesus describes how a woman loses a silver coin in the house. The people listening then and even ourselves can certainly identify with that situation – I am always losing things and searching the house high and low looking for them!

The woman starts looking for the coin, she lights a lamp, sweeps the entire floor and doesn't give up looking. Finally, after all her efforts she finds it and is so overjoyed that she invites the neighbors in to celebrate with her.

What Jesus is saying is that if we think we are lost to God, if we have done something at some time in our lives that we are ashamed of, or turned our back on God. If we think for any reason that God does not care for us – then we are wrong – because just like the shepherd and that one sheep, or like the woman seeking her lost coin – God will never give up searching for us to bring us safely back home to his love.

Because God loves you and me, He will never let us get lost. Even when we may think that we are a long way from God, and we will never find our way back to his love – Jesus assures us that God will find us and bring us safely home. **Amen**

Closing Prayer

Living God, I do not find it easy to love myself. I find it hard not to dwell on my faults and weaknesses. Gracious God, I thank you that you love me despite this. Teach me to live each day in the light of the incredible truth that you love me completely and want to be at one with me, through Jesus Christ my Lord.

Amen.

Prayers inspired by 'Prayerfully Yours' by Nick Fawcett.