

Sunday, September 11, 2022

Scripture Reading: Luke 15:1-10

The most important things in life aren't things. —Anthony J. D'Angelo

The gospel reading today tells the story of a shepherd who lost a lamb and went looking for it, and a woman who lost a coin and had to clean the whole house before she found it.

Things we lose. There's no point in asking whether you have ever lost something important. Of course you have. We all do. We lose keys, cards, TV remotes, glasses and more.

You can lose things even if you're in an assisting living facility. One resident had the habit of wrapping her rings and valuable brooches in tissue paper and stashing them in a dresser drawer. The problem with this strategy is that her jewelry looked like trash. It eventually disappeared! She either absentmindedly threw it out or the housekeeping staff discarded it while cleaning. It's heartbreaking to lose things we value.

Things we should lose. Yet, there are some things we should lose. Good riddance! I refer to a chronic grumpiness, a bitter spirit, the use of unkind words, a judgmental and critical attitude or unreasonable impatience. The list could go on. We call them vices. These are habits and flaws we should lose, and the sooner the better.

Things we should not lose. The Bible, however, says that we should fervently hang onto the important virtues that identify one as a person of faith and character — things like gentleness, goodness, joy, peace, patience, kindness and more. See Galatians 5:22-23. These strengths and assets are like precious gems. You want to hold on to them at all costs.

And you should not lose *yourself* in the midst of the worries and cares of life. You should not *lose touch with others*, like friends and family. And you should not lose your *sense of direction*, that is, your purpose in life — that God has work for you that only you can do.

The upside to losing something, however, is the joy upon finding it. The lost lamb and the coin in the gospel reading symbolize us. When God finds us, the angels rejoice in heaven. There is great joy.

Do not play hide-and-seek with God. Let God find you. Step into the open. Both you and God will rejoice.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Loving God, who searches for lost sheep until they are found, thank you for finding me and welcoming me back into the fold. Help me to lose the things I should lose, and hold on to the things that are important, and grant me the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

*Mappa Grandparents Dad
Linda Pastor Ben Mote*

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: 1 Thessalonians 1-5

Monday: 2 Chronicles 7-9

Tuesday: 2 Chronicles 10-13

Wednesday: 2 Chronicles 14-16

Thursday: 2 Chronicles 17-19

Friday: 2 Chronicles 20-22

Saturday: Psalms 100-102



Global Awareness



Directions: This is a rearrangement or unscrambling exercise. Each set of letters when rearranged will spell out the name of a country. Answers below.

1. A D E K M R N

2. G R B A A I L U

3. H P E I T I A O

4. D A U R O H N S

5. O A N M A R I

6. G L E D A N N

7. S H I N I N E C L T E E T

8. H F N N A A S T G A I

9. Y N G A R M E

10. S A T N K P I A

BRAIN TEASERS

Forrest left home running. He ran a ways and then turned left, ran the same distance and turned left again, ran the same distance and turned left again. When he got home, there were two masked men. Who were they?

A man stands on one side of a river, his dog on the other. The man calls his dog, who immediately crosses the river without getting wet and without using a bridge or a boat. How did the dog do it?

ANSWERS to Global Awareness:
1. Denmark, 2. Bulgaria, 3. Ethiopia, 4. Honduras, 5. Romania, 6. England, 7. Liechtenstein, 8. Afghanistan, 9. Germany, 10. Pakistan. **BRAIN TEASER:** The catcher and the umpire. The river was frozen.