



READ LUKE 15:1-10

A lot of people with doubtful reputations began hanging around Jesus, and the religious leaders were not pleased. So Jesus asked the religious leaders what they'd do if they had a hundred sheep, but lost one. Wouldn't they leave the flock and go after the one who was lost? And wouldn't they celebrate when they found it? Jesus assures them that there's more joy over one rescued sinner than over a flock in no need of rescue.

Jesus also asks them to imagine a woman who has ten coins, but loses one. Wouldn't she look everywhere until she found it? And wouldn't she celebrate when she did find it? Jesus assures them that God celebrates that way, too, when a lost soul is found.

LENT SERIES: WHO AM I?

Throughout Lent we'll be talking about who we are as Jesus-followers as we journey to the cross.

Read this essay by Robert Fulghum:
mjglass.ca/metaphor/getfound.htm

Who are you in this story? Are you hiding alone in the leaves? Do you need to get found? What would it mean for your life if you allowed yourself to really be seen? What would change if you began to really see other people, particularly those you never noticed before?

What does today's scripture reading tell us about our calling in the world? Who should we be, as followers of Jesus? How should we relate to each other? Who should we value, and how should we value them? How should we value ourselves?

REMEMBER: Luke 15:2 *"He takes in sinners and eats meals with them, treating them like old friends."*

NEXT WEEK: Luke 16:19-31

? WONDER

DAY 1: Have you ever lost something valuable? What happened? How did it feel when you lost it? Did you find it? How did it feel when you found it?

? WONDER

DAY 2: What does it mean to be lost? Are you lost right now? How do you know? Is it possible to look like you have it all together, or even feel like you do have it all together ... when in reality you're completely lost? How?

! SURPRISE

DAY 3: Does a single lost sheep or a single lost coin seem valuable? Are they worth all the trouble that went into finding them? Are we worth that kind of trouble to God? Are some of us more valuable than others? Is God working on a cosmic scale of relative value and calculated risk? Or is God's economy different? In what way?

♥ LOVE

DAY 4: Will God relentlessly seek and pursue everyone? No matter what? How do you feel about that? Does this God ever fail? Does God find *everyone*? Every single person? What are the implications of that? Does that very idea contradict the way we rank each other, the way we value (or fail to value) other lives?

! SURPRISE

DAY 5: What prompts Jesus to tell these stories? Why are the religious leaders so angry? What has Jesus done wrong? Were the religious leaders looking for a different kind of Messiah? Are we still doing that? What happens when we don't recognize self-sacrificial love or wide inclusion as strength? Is that what it means to be lost?

➡ PROGRESS

DAY 6: Think back to the story of Jonah. Remember how he sits outside Nineveh, hoping to see it destroyed? Remember how angry he was to see the people spared? Is this topic – one man's hatred for a group of people – still relevant hundreds of years after the Jonah story was written, when Jesus talks about the lost sheep and the lost coin? Is it still relevant today, thousands of years after that? Why are Jesus' words so difficult for us to hear or understand?

! SURPRISE

DAY 7: Who is lost in this story: the religious leaders or the people of "doubtful reputations"? Do you have to know that you're lost in order to be lost?