

The Upper Room<sup>[1]</sup> devotional reflection for Monday, January 11, 2021 comes to us from Ron Wasson of Texas

**Luke 15:1-10** *1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." 3 Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? 5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' 7 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. 8 "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' 10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*

### "Found"

When I was a child, the tropical outdoors of Nigeria where I lived beckoned to me. In grass, rocks, dirt, mud, cement patio – whatever the setting – I found a toy that would keep me happily playing for countless hours. Sometimes, other children would join in, each adding another wellspring of imagination. Now and then, toys would be lost – sometimes for good.

One time a toy was washed away in the rainy season only to appear in a different area. When I later found the toy, I was delighted. It didn't even matter that by this time the toy had begun to show signs of rust and discoloration or that the wheels didn't roll well anymore. My toy that once was lost had been found!

Today's passage speaks of other treasured things being lost and then found – a sheep found by a shepherd and a woman's lost coin. For me, it was a beloved toy. All of these situations help us to understand the delight God feels when a lost sinner is found.

-- Rom Wasson

**Prayer Focus:** Children in Nigeria

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, we acknowledge that we were all once lost. Thank you for loving us enough to send your Son to save us. In His name we pray. Amen

**Thought for the Day:** I can rejoice with God and the angels in heaven when a lost one is found.

Friends –

I frequently can't remember where I put something I need at a particular moment. Recently, I forgot where I had put a model car kit that my roommate wanted to work on. The good news was that we managed to clean and organize an entire room, at least partially, before I thought to look somewhere entirely different. I did find it, and we were happy to have the opportunity for her to begin to build that model car.

We had found what was lost, actually misplaced. This might not be as important as a sheep to a shepherd or a coin to a poor woman. Still the emotional relief is a special gift to us.

Also, this is a great parable to remind us that when we are feeling lost, confused, or forsaken, God, who loves us all the time, is present through Christ to save us, no matter what!

--Pastor bea

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.upperroom.org/>