



BIBLE STUDY for the Second Sunday of Creation

Focus text: Luke 15:1-10



Both the Timothy and the Luke passages focus on the wonder of God's redeeming love.

The power of the Gospel passage depends on our understanding of the value of lost things. Without the assumption that lost things have value, the parables would lose their force. Luke give us three parables from Jesus on this theme, featuring a lost sheep, a lost coin and the next story (vv 11-31), the lost child. As the parables are told, the ratio of lost to safe changes; one sheep in a hundred, one coin in ten and one child in two. Yet the commitment of the shepherd, the woman and the father is total and the scale of celebration at the end of each story is lavish.

The two parables in the reading take place both in an outside setting and within the home: the rural landscape and the domestic scene. Whatever the setting, and whatever the proportion of the missing to the safe, Jesus suggests that God's care is consistently generous. In contrast, many people tend to think that the disappearance of natural species is a matter of relatively small importance. In decision-making matters, the economy often takes precedence ecology. Partly as a result of such a mind-set, we are living through the sixth great extinction in the history of the Earth – and the first to be caused by humans. The current rate of extinction is said to be 100 or even 1000 times above the natural level.

A true sense of the value of God's creation will cause us to repent of such callous disregard. God did not say, "Never mind that one sheep is lost, I still have 99," or "Never mind about the coin, I still have others."

Looking at these stories from another perspective we see a searching shepherd, a determined woman and a waiting father. They did not give up hope; they worked hard, with determination, until what was lost was found. This shows us that the challenge to protect our Earth is not an easy one; it is not a short term challenge, but requires us to be strong, work hard and never give up hope.

(Taken from Word and Worship – Year C 2018-2019, p283)

*God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of Your love for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in Your sight.
Help us to protect all life,
To prepare for a better future,
For the coming of Your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Amen*

