



Posted on August 18, 2016
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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, September 11, 2016

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost – Lectionary Year C

Scripture: [Luke 15:1-10](#) [**Summary:** *Parable Of The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies are needed

ASK (a.k.a *The On-Ramp*)

- Good morning!
- Have you ever played hide-and-go seek?
- Are you so good at it that you've hidden before and then after awhile, because the person can't find you, you actually start to make noise to make it easier for the person to find you?
- That's how good you are, right?
- Let's pretend that you are playing hide and go seek with your parents.
- And let's pretend that you are so good at hiding that your parents can't find you.
- And when they call for you to come out, you don't answer...because you fell asleep while you were waiting for them to find you.
- Do you think they'd stop looking for you?
- Do you think they'd say, "Hunh. We can't find our beloved child...let's go out to eat!"
- Or do you think they'd keep looking, yelling out your name and maybe even ask others to help find you?
- And all along, you know where you are, right? So you're not lost in that way.
- But you are separated from your parents and not with your parents.
- Which means you're not with the people you're supposed to be with and that's why you would be thought of as "lost" in this pretend story of your super-good hide-and-go-seek hiding.

TELL (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- And that's the same type of "lost" we hear in the stories Jesus tells in today's scripture about the lost coin and the lost sheep.
- The coin and the sheep are not with the people they belong to. The coin is not with the woman and the sheep is not with the shepherd.
- So the woman and the shepherd keep trying to fix that; they keep looking for the coin and sheep so that the coin and sheep would once again be with whom they belong to.
- And, once the woman and shepherd are successful in getting the coin and sheep back with them, then there is great rejoicing.
- This same thing sometimes happens to us with God.
- We sometimes we stop paying attention to God because we are paying attention to something else.
- Then we forget that we belong to God; that is how we get separated from God and "lost."

SHARE the Good News (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- But, when we're separated from God, God doesn't ever forget about us.
- And God never stops wanting us to know that we belong to God.
- So then, when we start paying attention to God again, there is great rejoicing!
- One way that God continues to tell us that we belong to God is through each other.
- That's one of the reasons we gather in worship every week, to remind each other that we are not lost – that we belong to God.
- And that is the good news for today – that you and I and all of us belong to God.
- Let's pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer...

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Sorry that we sometimes forget...

Sorry that we sometimes forget...

...that we belong to you.

...that we belong to you.

Thank you for Jesus and each other...

Thank you for Jesus and each other...

...who remind us...

...who remind us...

...that we belong to you.

...that we belong to you.

Thank you and Amen