

Everyday FAITH Family Page

New Testament 3

Law/Gospel

Because of my sin, I am lost from God. **My heavenly Father does not abandon me, but seeks me out through His Word and Sacraments, forgives me completely for Jesus' sake, and keeps me safe in faith.**

Bible Words

The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.
Luke 19:10

Just Joking

What famous character from Jesus' parables hit a home run?
The prodigal son, who came home.

Sing

Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our
refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake
thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield
thee;
Thou wilt find a solace there.

*"What a Friend We Have in Jesus,"
Lutheran Service Book 770, stanza 3*

Jesus Seeks the Lost

Luke 15

Tax collectors and sinners often came to Jesus. Offended, the religious teachers confronted Jesus. Welcoming sinners was not right, they insisted. One day, when the teachers again voiced their concerns, Jesus told three parables about lost things.

First, Jesus told about a shepherd who left ninety-nine sheep to look for one lost sheep. When he found the sheep, He called his friends and neighbors to rejoice with him. Jesus said, "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance" (v. 7).

Jesus' second parable told of a woman who lost one of ten silver coins. When she found it, she called her friends and neighbors to celebrate. Again, Jesus spoke of heaven's joy over a repentant sinner.

The third parable told about a father and two sons. The younger son made a shocking request for his inheritance. In a way, the son wished his father dead so he could have his money, but the father did as asked.

The younger son recklessly squandered his inheritance and ended up tending pigs, an unclean animal to the Jews. Out of options, he decided to go home and ask to be his father's servant.

Before the son could utter an apology, the father ran to him and kissed and hugged him. The father gave the son gifts to welcome him back to the family: a robe, a ring, and shoes. He ordered a celebration.

The older son heard the music and came home to investigate. A servant told him his wayward brother was home and how his father received him with joy. Angry, the older son refused to join the party. The father came out and begged him to come in, but the son refused.

This time, Jesus did not finish the story. He left an opening for the religious teachers, represented by the older son, to repent of their sinfulness, arrogance, and self-righteousness. They needed a Savior, but they rejected Jesus and His love. Secure in their religious knowledge and outward actions, these leaders became lost themselves.

Jesus, our Lord, still seeks and saves lost sinners. May He find you, forgive you, surround you with His grace, and bring you safely home.

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