

"There is joy in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who repents." Luke chapter 15 verse 10

There are few things worse than being lost. You know where you've come from and you know where you ought to be, but you have no idea where you are. It's worst of all for children, who will also be feeling afraid and confused. Do you know the sense of relief when you see a familiar landmark, or meet someone you know who is able to help you?

A sense of being somehow 'lost' is common in many people. In fact I wouldn't be surprised if everyone, at one time or another, has a feeling of not really being where they should be. This isn't surprising, since we are all supposed to be part of the family of God's children, guided, provided for and protected by him for time and eternity.

So Jesus presents three parables, one about a lost sheep, one about a lost son, and this one, about a woman who loses a valuable coin and sweeps the house until she finds it and then throws a party to celebrate.

The common theme in these three parables is the inestimable value of the thing which has been lost. The shepherd leaves ninety nine sheep in the field to find the lost one, the woman turns the house upside down, and the father is continually looking into the distance waiting for his son to return. None are rejected simply because they are lost. The way is always open for their return.

In just the same way, in the death and resurrection of Jesus, God has opened a way for lost people to return to him. In Jesus, he has left the glory of heaven to find us, he has turned the world upside down to seek us out and he is waiting to embrace us when we turn to him. If we have already done this in our lives, and know what it is to know God, then we are commanded by Jesus to be part of the search for others who are lost; our loved ones, friends and acquaintances. We can help to show them the way home.

But if you are aware of an unaccountable feeling of 'lostness' then be assured that there is a 'home' to be found when you turn to God by faith in Jesus Christ, and there will be a massive party in heaven when you do.

Prayer

Father, I know how it feels to be lost, and I know that there is somewhere in me where I feel, or have felt, lost to you. Please reveal to me the way home to you in Jesus so that I can be where I was always intended to be. In Jesus' name, amen.

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