

Discussion & Reflection Questions
Brave Unknown - Week 5 - Pentecost 14C - 14th September 2025

Read: Luke 15:1-10

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, ‘This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ ³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ ‘Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.” ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance. ⁸ ‘Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, “Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.” ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.’ hear listen!’

Discussion Questions

1. Read the balance of the rest of chapter 15 (Parable of the Prodigal Son)
2. Why do the Pharisees & scribes object to Jesus “welcoming sinners and eating with them”? How does this shape the meaning of the parable?
3. What are the similarities & differences between the story of the lost sheep & the lost coin?
4. Both stories end with communal celebration. What does this suggest about the role of the community of faith when someone “repents” or is restored?
5. What do you understand joy to mean in this context?
6. How do these stories help us understand repentance?
7. What does Jesus teach say about religious entitlement?
8. How does this passage relate to our theme “brave unknown”?

Prayer

Undaunted you seek the lost, O God, exultant you bring home the found: touch our hearts with grateful wonder at the tenderness of your forbearing love; grant us delight in the mercy that has found us; and bring all to rejoice at the feast of forgiven sinners. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.