

Coop's Scoops #63, June 30th 2020

It's officially been summer for a week now, and the weather is glorious. .. the corn may be getting as high as an elephant's eye pretty soon, the flowers are gorgeous outside the church and in my garden. What is missing, or course, is YOU and YOU and YOU and YOU x the 286 families this goes out to! When I pray in the church, it feels very lonely....if buildings can miss people, this one misses you. With patience and good covid behaviours and a decreasing number of cases, we may be back together in September. Please pray for our Archbishop +Anne, Archdeacons Kelly and Jay, and other officials as they work on the "rules" for re-opening. Also keep praying for the Concurrence Committee as they work and pray to find a new Priest for Lake of Bays and St. Thomas, Bracebridge. Thanks! Everything you do matters!

I am forwarding the Messy Church video to you separately so that it will be a live link. Just click and enjoy. It begins with a few words and a black screen but be patient pretty soon you'll see and hear Connie and everything moves along great after that. Thanks so much to Jess for videography.

So.....how about a cartoon?

I can see this happening in
Many homes in this
Internet generation,
But the message is
Still the same, however
We find it.





**Cop: You were going fast.
Me: I was just trying to keep
up with traffic.
Cop: There isn't any.
Me: I know! That's how far
behind I am.**

This prayer has been forwarded to me by several people....thanks!

**SOLIDARITY PRAYER
FOR A PANDEMIC**

*May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.*

*May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.*

*May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must
choose between preserving their health or making their rent.*

*May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools
close remember those who have no options.*

*May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those that have no place to go.*

*May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.*

*May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.*

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.

It's Tuesday, Guest Preacher day: Caroline Sokoloski, Lay Reader, St. Thomas:

Luke 15: 3-24 NRSV So Jesus 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? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“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? ⁹When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Then Jesus^[b] said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with^[c] the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his

arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’^[d] ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

Homily: Picture a woman in a small house on a crowded village street. She’s kindly - gets by on very little; spends her days sewing and knitting, cooking, chatting with her neighbours. She has few possessions and little money but she does have ten silver coins that are of great value to her. One day she realizes a coin is missing. Her heart skips a beat. Is it mislaid, dropped? Has someone taken it? She’s in a panic. Where could it be?

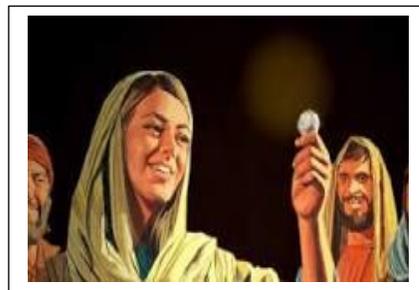
The coins likely hung on a veil or around her neck as part of a dowry to secure her living if her husband died. The value is significant; the coins equalled about a day’s wages. So let’s say she had \$1,000. Now \$100 is missing – a terrible loss. The coin must be found.

Houses in that village had a few small slits for windows -so little light. Lamp oil wasn’t cheap, and she saves it for night. But she must find that coin.

She sweeps the earth floor, under mats and pottery vessels. Nothing. She goes over the same area but from a different angle, the light from the lamp casts different shadows this time. Suddenly a small glimmer. There it is! Quickly picking it up, she blows away the dust.

“Yes, there you are! I thought you were gone, never to be found!”

She has all her coins and rushes out:
“Come and celebrate with me! The coin has been found!”



There are three stories or parables about loss in this chapter of Luke. The 'lost' are a son, a sheep and the woman's coin. What would WE do about something that was lost? Would we be like the shepherd who leaves 99 sheep to go looking for the missing one sheep? It seems so risky to leave 99 dumb sheep to go looking for one. Or like this widow - spending more than the coin's value celebrating with her neighbours? Even though God has ninety nine sheep or nine of ten coins, He wants all of them. God cares so much that He goes searching for the lost. Jesus spent time with those who needed His presence. "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance"

There's concern for the restoration of lost relationships— God seeking the lost and bringing them into a loving relationship with Himself. We must realize our need to be found by Him. God wants us to be like Him in seeing the importance of relationships with other people and striving to reconcile and restore fellowship with them.

The woman in this parable was clearly 'in relationship' with her neighbours. Having found the precious coin, she wasted no time in calling them to celebrate with her. No one commented on this seemingly crazy celebration - spending more money feeding and entertaining the neighbours than the value of what she had lost. Why bother looking for the coin at all, if you're just going to blow more money anyway? It's insanity. Nobody does this. Except Jesus.

This story was told to religious people who fancied themselves as the 99 sheep—or the nine coins that were never lost. They're the goody-two-shoes who would never run off, who would never lose a coin. These guys aren't impressed by the God who spends all His time going after the sinner. They believe God should be spending His time with the well-behaved.

But, if they are scandalized, If they wouldn't leave the 99, if they wouldn't throw a two-coin party after a one-coin find—oh well. We can be assured that Jesus will search for each of us if we are lost. **He will search for you until He finds you. He is unrelenting. Thank God, Amen - Caroline**

Prayer for the Day: (a simple prayer for any morning)

Somehow, Lord Jesus, I like praying with a cup of coffee

in my hands. I guess the warmth of the cup settles me and speaks of the warmth of Your love. I hold the cup against my cheek and listen, hushed and still. I blow on the coffee and drink. O Spirit of God, blow across my little life and let me drink in Your great LIFE. Amen.



Blessing:

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself;
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service;
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**