

Gospel Reflection

THREE PARABLES, THREE FOOLS

One way that some ancient languages formed superlatives was through triple repetition. If there was no word for “holiest” they would say “holy, holy, holy.” This threefold enforcement gets used by Jesus today, as he tells three parables about how God wants nothing more than to have every sinner restored to grace. The central characters would have been considered outright fools by those who heard Jesus: the shepherd abandoning the whole flock to find one stupid, wandering sheep; the woman frantically sweeping, ignoring her other duties, to find the least valuable coin; the father whose son told him, “You’re dead to me, old man,” yet still a father who runs like a giddy adolescent to meet the son, then throws a party. Jesus’ audience had no difficulty believing the fact their Lord and God Adonai loved them. They knew God was filled with boundless mercy and loving-kindness. But please, is God going to act like a crazy fool about it?

Jesus’ answer to this would have been, “Yes, my Abba will act like a fool, crazy in love with each of you.” Jesus himself shows forth this kind of love by rupturing the religious regulations and social conventions of his day, eating with tax collectors and all sorts of sinners. At the end of each of the three parables, there is great rejoicing.

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KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

Luke 15:1-32

N S E D O F H T E D L D L
L O I M A Q S N E P H E A
K R I M B A O R N E U R M
E N I T E R E Z Q E N E P
N N C F A D A I D W D T C
E A O O N P A C Y S R H E
W L M A I R I E E E E G B
X G U O B N M S A D D U Q
K Q I M W G M S S Z C A C
S L O S T Q E W Y I X L G
C O M P A S S I O N D S I
T C Z O K L I T P E E H S
G Q O N S K K C Z Q J C J

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

COIN	COMPASSION	DIRE
DISSIPATION	EMBRACED	FAMINE
FEAST	HUNDRED	LAMP
LOST	SHEEP	SLAUGHTERED
SQUANDERED	SWEEP	WOMAN

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9/16/07*

*Luke 15:1-32
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.
Claremont, CA
www.olaclaremont.org

Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

We then pause for a moment to listen with our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...

The Word of God: *Luke 15:1-32*

The Gospel according to Luke:

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So he addressed this parable. "What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.

"Or what woman having ten coins and losing one would not light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until she finds it? And when she does find it, she calls together her friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost.' In just the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Then he said, "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father give me the share of your estate that should come to me.'

"So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck the country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any.

"Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.'"

"While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.

"His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you, I no longer deserve to be called your son.'

"But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began.

"Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean.

"The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

"He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him.

"He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to

feast on with my friends. But when your son returns, who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.'

"He said to him, "My son, you are here with me always everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found."

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- As I consider these three parables, with which do I most identify? Why?
- What challenges me most about the parable of the prodigal son?

Closing Prayer

*Father in heaven, Creator of all,
look down upon your people in their
moments of need, for you alone are the
source of our peace. Bring us the dig-
nity which distinguishes the poor in
spirit and show us how great is the call
to serve, that we may share in the peace
of Christ who offered his life in the ser-
vice of all. We ask this through Christ
our Lord.*
Amen.

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time