

November 6, 2025

Daily Reflections



HOPE AND RESPONSIBILITY

By Sister Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

From Today's Readings

For none of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself ... each of us shall give an accounting of her/himself to God.

ROMANS 14:7, 12

Today's Gospel: the Parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin: God's joy over one sinner who repents.

LUKE 15:1-10

Reflection

In this first reading from Romans, we are reminded that we don't live in isolation; each of us is accountable to God. At the same time, we ought not cast our eyes of judgment upon others because we don't know their life

circumstances. We don't know what goes on behind the masks we all wear; thus, the caution to focus on our own lives and not look for the imperfections in another's life.

The two parables in the Gospel of Luke are rich in meaning and significance for our lives. In God's eyes, just one lost sheep or one coin is precious because each of us is precious in God's eyes.

The emphasis is not on the value of the one sheep or the one coin; it's how God judges the value. When one is found, there is great rejoicing and celebration. If we use this as a metaphor for our lives, God celebrates each time we lose our way and yet seek to find our way back to God.

Taking these readings together, we have the themes of judgment, invitation, mercy and joy. While we live under God's judgment, it is not meant to discourage us or impede our desire to follow God through how we live our lives. It is a direct call to us for faithfulness and that virtue that keeps popping up – humility. Can we admit when we lose our way? Will we make the effort to find our way back to the path of discipleship?

God's invitation to be merciful to others as God is merciful to us is important to reflect upon. Mercy is not some passive or sentimental emotion; through mercy, God seeks the lost and rejoices when the lost return. God continually calls and invites us to participate in the great mission of mercy, both in our own lives and in how we engage and relate with others.



Switzerland

Photo by Sister Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

For Pondering

- Sometimes in our lives we encounter people who are “lost” for a myriad of reasons: grief, addiction, isolation, disillusionment, and discouragement. God’s invitation to us is to extend mercy and our presence to accompany

others who are struggling along the way. How have you been able to put this way of being into practice in your life?

- If you have struggled along life's journey and strayed from your commitment to discipleship, how did you find your way back? How was that experience for you? Could you picture God rejoicing as the "one who was lost" was found?

For Prayer

*Loving and ever-faithful God,
may we remain committed to our journey of discipleship.
In turn, may we extend assistance to others
who might be experiencing life's hardships.
Let us rejoice with those who are "found" and seek out those who are "lost."
Amen.*

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