



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY September 15 & BEYOND”

What and Who Are Precious



We go looking for the things that are most precious to us. It may be that that precious thing has already been in our possession, yet we lost it, and now are driven to find it again. It may be, on the other hand, we have not yet been able to acquire it, yet we know it is precious to us in some way, and so we are in a life search for it. One other option which is most fascinating, is that moment when we are introduced to, or discover on our own, the most precious thing in our lives that up to that point we didn't realize was most precious to us! Serendipity moments.

When you come to church at All Saints' this Sunday, September 15, you are going to hear readings from the bible that speak of precious things. And if you listen closely – I recommend you read the lessons beforehand and consider them every time you go to church, if you know what they will be -- you will clearly hear that the point is not the things in and of themselves, but what is behind those things becoming precious, and to whom—that is important to understand.

When in the Gospel (the “good news”) according to Luke we hear Jesus teaching about precious things, we hear Jesus raising powerful images of what has been within our possession already. And then in his mini-illustrations a precious thing becomes lost – for whatever reason—and you know these lost things will immediately have the attention of his audience. A lost sheep: what parent doesn't immediately say to the rest of the family at the fair or a theme park when not all heads are accounted for, “Stay right here. I have to go find _____, who has

wandered away!” Or the woman who lost one out of ten silver coins: what one of us if we suddenly couldn’t account for 10% of our total livelihood wouldn’t go searching high and low for it, probably asking our family to join in, and asking our closest friends to start praying it gets found! And then Jesus points out what the response looks like on the one who has found, the one who has brought back what was lost, and now found: joy and delight and relief and fulfillment and satisfaction, completion.

Even better, and to the point, Jesus and each of the lessons for Sunday point to the essence of the relationship between each one of us, and God himself. In other words, you are precious to God, and he longs to have you in a connected relationship with him.

It’s not your money that makes you precious to him – he gave you that money out of his pocket in the first place. It’s not your brains that make you precious to him – He’s already let us know that it was He who formed us in the womb with all our parts in the first place; what “parts” we have were his in the first place. It’s YOU, hand in hand with Him.

And so, you see, whether you were involved with Israel’s “original sin” of creating a golden calf to worship and call god; or whether your faith in “something” has not included God at all; or whether your relationship has been marked by any other sinful, disobedient behavior that has broken your relationship; or you have simply wandered away blissfully ignorant of what exterior forces have drawn you away; all of these represent the tearing of a relationship of love and mercy that God has chosen to have exist with us. All of these separations mean God’s precious people are apart from him. And his love, his mercy, his willful longing informs us of why he considers you precious, and why he wants you in close relationship with him, and why he won’t let you go without a fight, so to speak.

Do not be fooled: God knows the difference between “my people” and those who are “no longer my people.” And God knows, we can keep running from God until our tragic death and un-eternal end. This is in fact why Jesus has come to us. The “happiest words the world has ever heard” are heard in St. Paul’s letter to be read on Sunday, “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”

Why? Because we are precious to God, and He has come after us, looking for us, and he has given us the endless opportunity through our lives, to turn to God because he is to be the most precious “thing” in OUR lives. To show that, we will call him

Lord. And we will give thanks to him. And we will trust in his love for us by returning to him for his use all those things that we thought were most precious.

Fr. Robert Eaton, Interim Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 12:1, 7-14 Psalm 51:1-11 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:30a Low Mass (Church)

10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

AA Meeting

7:00p Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)

—The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue—

Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

SUNDAY The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00am Low Mass (Church)

10:30am Solemn Mass (Church)

AA Meeting

7:00p Little Apple Group (Parish Hall)