

24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time C

Today is Lost and Found Sunday – it's in all the readings –

In the first reading the nation of Israel loses its faith in God

Moses has gone up the mountain and he's gone a L o o n g time

“Moses is gone (lost) we need another God”

Golden Calf

God didn't abandoned His people? NO WAY

But without Moses, they were lost

Moses has to plead with God to remember His covenant

In the second reading St. Paul tells Timothy about being lost

He tells him about his life BEFORE Jesus when he persecuted the church

He tells him that he was the foremost of all sinners – (definition of lost)

BUT – with Jesus he has been found

In the Gospel we have three stories

Lost sheep – Lost coin – Lost son

In all three stories there is rejoicing at finding what was lost

After each story Jesus says the same thing (NB when God repeats himself)

“In the same way there will be rejoicing in heaven over 1 who repents”

***Today we are going to baptize this little girl – has she sinned yet NO.***

***Will she YES – but thru the grace of this Sacrament, as a Christian, she can come to Jesus and be forgiven***

***– only Christians can claim the power of the blood of Jesus***

***– with joy we come to this font to bring her into the Christian family***

***– where the lost can be found – AMEN? AMEN!***

We have to remember → WHY DID JESUS TELL THESE STORIES?

Jesus was eating with tax collectors & sinners and the Pharisee complain

**JESUS CAME TO FIND THE LOST**

(That is what I preach. It's what all the saints preached –**there's only 1 message**)

1. Israel **lost** its faith and built a golden calf
2. Before Paul had his faith – he was **lost** & persecuted Christians
3. Jesus' 3 parables teach us that God seeks the **lost**
4. Whenever we sin – we're still God's beloved, but we are **lost**

**And He rejoices when they are found**

*In fact - after finding the lost coin he says:*

‘There will be rejoicing among the angels in heaven over one sinner who repents’

*Want to make angels dance? REPENT*

God loves us – He seeks the lost – from Old Testament to New

From the time of **Moses**, to New Testament time of **St Paul**, to **the present day**

That's why Paul, *who persecuted Christians*, can say:

“I was mercifully treated so that, in me, Christ might display all His patience as an example for those who would come to believe in Him for everlasting life.”

-- If you don't believe it, **believe it** – no matter what you've done or how you've lived, the Lord God is still seeking the lost – & *angels still dance when 1 repents.*