



MORE THAN ENOUGH

Precious Things

How many of us had a treasure box as a child? I had one, and my two-year-old grandson Andrew also has one. His contains tiny, seemingly unrelated 'treasures'. All of which are regularly taken out and examined before being put back in a 'safe place' – until the next time.

This Gospel passage is all about precious things. It's about a flock of sheep. It's about ten silver coins. And it's about every single one of them mattering, counting. And Jesus tells these stories in response to the Pharisees and the scribes who, as usual, have strong opinions about who matters and who doesn't. With whom Jesus should be spending time, and with whom he definitely shouldn't be.

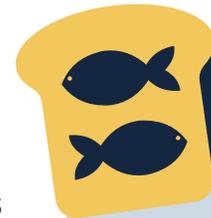
Jesus tells us that everyone matters, indeed it all matters. It all counts. It is all precious. Everything that we have is given to us all from the abundance of God's great goodness. Everything from sheep to silver coins, to life itself.

And today, the eleventh of September, is a day to remember precious things that would seem to have been lost. The countless lives lost with the 9/11 attacks; the unnumbered lives that continue to be lost in the pandemic and on the battlefields around the world. Lives of those we see no longer, and yet are always with us in the cloud of witnesses.

I think Jesus is telling us we can only really lose things if we're not paying attention. Everything is there to be found if we care about them enough. We are not alone in our search. God will always be with us. In all likelihood, God is just ahead of us, shining God's light into the dark corners of our world.

Our world is filled with God's abundance if we will only open our eyes to both see it and look for it. To recognize the extraordinary enough-ness of the gifts given to all of creation. And that indeed that the 'more than enough-ness' is sufficient to satisfy and nourish us all.

Now that's a Gospel truth that will keep the alleluias rolling through eternity! | tens.org



Questions For Reflection:

What precious things are in your 'treasure box'?
What, as an adult, do you most value?

What is the 'sheep' or the 'silver coin' that you are most at risk of losing.



The Rev. Jane McDougale is recently retired from Holy Innocents, San Francisco, CA. She is focusing now on being a grandmother and leading the Diocese of California Disaster Preparedness efforts. (the two ministries are unrelated!)

