

FR.TK REFLECTIONS 24th SUNDAY YEAR C 2022.

THE GREAT SEARCH-LOST AND FOUND:

The church liturgical year has 34 ordinary Sundays, this is the 24th one hence we have ten more Sundays to go then we have another season. what a good Sunday today to reflect on **where we are coming from, where we are and see which direction we will take from here.** is there anything we need to **get rid off, improve or even to retain** in our spiritual way of life.

Our readings today, especially the gospel, calls us to look into ourself, **search and locate where we are and see anything which demands our attention that we may go back to our loving merciful God.**

In this gospel, the Pharisees and the Scribes are shocked by Jesus, he is doing something out of their expectations, eating and dining with the sinners this is unheard of to this orthodoxy proclaimed cream of the society. Sinners must be condemned according to them, on the contrary Jesus Loved the sinners.

He went ahead in explaining his behavior of eating and welcoming the sinners by giving these three episodes He is teaching that God ***doesn't avoid sinners, loves them, He searches for them, and He is happy to find them and return them to the fold.***

In these three episodes, ***the lost sheep, the lost coin and the prodigal son (Lk.15:4-31).***

all grieves on what is **lost,intensifies the search,doesn't give up and rejoices after getting it** back.

The shepherd leaves the ninety nine unattended in search of one stray sheep,the woman turns her house upside down to get hold of this valuable coin, the father scans the whole environment day in and day out to locate the estranged son.

Our loving merciful God is more than that to a sinner and he leaves the good ones since they have no need to repent,to look for the lost one and doesn't relax by turning all the place upside down to get hold of this valuable ***you and me***, and his ***powerful telescopic binoculars of mercy are busy scanning everywhere*** to locate us.we are more valuable than the sheep or the coin. God is looking for us to make up our mind,to come to our sense like the prodigal son,he wouldn't have been forgiven if he didn't come to his senses and make the first step towards home and the poor Dad saw him run to meet him and welcome him home.consider the moment,the doubt the son had,will I be welcomed home,will I be punished.He must be scared of his brothers reaction of withdraw and bitterness expressed! The father had different opinion,he wanted his son back it doesn't matter simply he is happy,so does the shepherd

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The woman coin had romantic meaning it was as if she had lost her love hence had to turn all upside down it is like marriage ring nowadays, the likes of the spanish ***eras the gift of coin they share in marriage hence very precious***.we are all precious in the eyes of God,we have a real loving father let's not be

ashamed of our past, he is calling us back and will accept us and **love us unconditionally** let's go for his mercy today.

Like Israelite in the first reading **who were a bunch of slaves escaping from Egypt** and went against God's commandment by falling back to **idolatry in making the molten calf (Ex:32:4ff)** God pardoned them and accepted them back. Many a time we might be like them, in making modern calves of **materialism, sports, entertainments, fun and having no time to get connected to their real source who is God.** we might end up in spending all our time, energy and resources after all the above forgetting God in our modern society. He is always ready to accept us back. Like St. Paul in the second reading who was a persecutor, blasphemer and arrogant to the word, God searched for him and he changed and turned all that energy to spreading of the same gospel he was he was against (1tim.1:12ff) our God is ready to forgive and forget.

The lost sheep was found that it could rejoin the flock.
The son was forgiven that he may return home.
The coin was found that the woman may regain her love.
God will never give up on us until He finds us that we return to him. with all the Blessings we have let us not move away from the one who is the source of all the Blessings.

