

24th Sunday of Ordinary Time (C)

September 12, 2010

How much worth do we put on ourselves?

Do we consider ourselves worth more than the finest treasure in the entire world?

Or, do we think we are worthless and wonder why anyone would want to be our friend much less hang out with us?

How much worth do we put on ourselves?

Perhaps this is too big of a question to start with.

So, let's scale it down a bit for a moment.

Have you ever lost anything – valuable or not?

Sure...we've all lost things from time to time.

Just a few weeks ago I was sewing a button on one of my shirts and lost the needle in the process.

I searched everywhere in my room...I even got on my hands and knees and searched, but could not find the needle.

I finally gave up and went to get another needle in the basement and on my return, found the needle lying on the floor in plain sight.

Of course, I was happy I found the needle, but I didn't make a big deal about it...I didn't even tell anyone until now.

A few years ago I lost my rosary that I always carried around with me. It was from the KofC when I became a member.

And as you would expect, I searched everywhere for that rosary. I even prayed to St. Anthony to help me find it.

After a few days, I found my rosary in the very same pants' pocket that I left it in and I was sure that I searched those pockets thoroughly.

Once I found this, I told a lot more people – my friends and family, including my grandmother who sent me an extra rosary in the meantime.

During my second year of college, I lost a very good friend of mine. She didn't die, but for one reason or another, decided to stop talking with me.

It was hard, but I decided to give her her space and respect her wishes... so, I made no attempt to contact her.

A few years later, she contacted me and I was overjoyed!

I had my friend back and it felt great!

Today, I truly believe our friendship is stronger than ever.

Depending on what we lose – the value and worth we put on something or someone – will determine our urgency to find it and our reaction when we do find it.

I was not that concerned when I lost the needle...I just went and got another one. When I did find the needle, it was good, but not a big deal.

I was a little more concerned when I lost my rosary and told more people about it, especially when I found it.

I was very concerned when I lost my friend and rejoiced when she came back.

In our Gospel today, we hear about a lost sheep, a lost coin, and finally, a lost son.

And in each parable, all these things are highly valued and worth much to the seeker, who stops at nothing to find them.

Upon finding them, the seeker celebrates and tells his and her friends.

Now imagine we are those lost items and God is seeking to find us.

That is exactly what happens when we sin...we become lost.

And God values us so much – no matter what worth we put on ourselves –
He values us more than anything in the world and stops at nothing to
find us.

God's love for us is so great that all He desires is to be united with us and
He offers us endless opportunities until this is accomplished.

And so, how do we see ourselves...the same as God sees us, namely,
worth more than all the treasures in the world...or do we see
ourselves as worthless?

Some of us may indeed see ourselves as very worthy...in fact, we may
think we deserve more than what we have.

Some of us may see ourselves as worthless and think we deserve nothing.

And some of us may see ourselves as indeed worthy and simply sit in the
presence of God's love.

The fact of the matter still remains though, no matter how we see
ourselves, all of us are very valuable and very worthy to God who will
never cease loving us – no matter what we do or don't do.

So, the questions are: not only how much worth do we put on ourselves,
but also how will we respond to God's unconditional love for us?

Do we think we deserve more?

Will we reject it?

Will we simply accept it and rest in the presence of God?

What will our response to God be?