

Sermon Notes:
All Age Talk – Mothering Sunday 27-3-22

Luke 15:11-32 – The Prodigal Son

Title: Feeling Lost, but Never Far from Home.

I think children ask the best questions. And one of my favourites I heard recently, was “where does laughter come from? Who invented laughter?” Isn’t that a lovely thought! I think joy and laughter come from God. And the story we heard just now is one of Jesus’ stories which he told, all about “lost things!”

Q. Have you ever lost anything?

I remember going to the Natural History Museum with my grandparents and getting lost myself. I began to panic, feeling that cold flush of terror, and I remember shouting out in the midst of the great hall, and remember the embarrassment of what felt like a thousand pairs of eyes focus on me, only for my Grandparents to look a little shocked, and say, “We’re literally behind you.”

Now, Jesus told lots of stories about “lost things,” stories about a lost coin, a shepherd’s lost sheep, and today, a father’s lost boys. And each of these stories show God’s great joy at finding those of us who feel a bit lost and lonely. But of course, just like when I felt lost in the Natural History Museum, I was never really all that far from my grandparents, in the same way, even when we feel lost or lonely, God is never far away; but he still takes great delight and joy when we turn around to discover he was right there all along.

Q. Now, how many sons were in Jesus’ story?

Q. And how many of them were perfect?

Neither.

One took his Daddy’s money and ran away, and the other despised his Father’s kindness. The one son begrudged his father’s wealth, the other begrudged his kindness. But here’s the wonderful point of the story: God loves the reckless runaway and the grumpy grumbler. God loves the reckless runaway and the grumpy grumbler.

Now a good question for the grownups, whenever we read a parable is to ask: Who am I in the story? The reckless runaway or the grumpy grumbler? And wherever we imagine ourselves in this story, it is wonderful to remember, however we turn away from God, he is always there, ready to receive us with joy when we turn round to face him.