

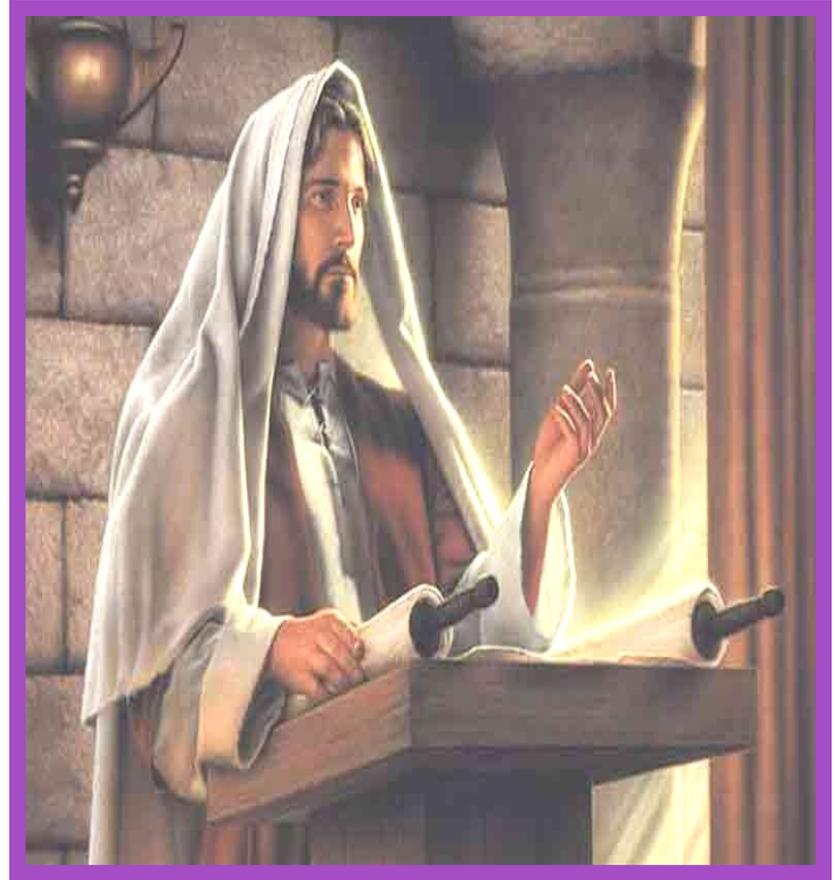
found by Christ and made like unto Him?... The woman lighting a lamp searches for what was lost. We were found by the Wisdom of God the Father, Which is His Son, kindling again in us the light of the divine and rational Day Star, when the Sun of Justice rose, and the day dawned, as it is written: (II Pet. i. 19) ... It is in *the Light*, that which was lost was saved.

This has filled the heavenly powers with joy. They rejoice even over one sinner doing penance, as He teaches us Who knows all things. If these heavenly beings, ever seeking the fulfilling of the divine will, given to the unending praise of the most tender divine compassion, rejoice over one sinner saved, what are we to say of their joy at the salvation of the whole world, called to the knowledge of truth, through faith in Christ?



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**SERMON ON  
THE LOST SHEEP AND LOST COIN  
FROM THE FATHER'S OF THE CHURCH  
# 162 - 2**



**JESUS, OUR FIRST PREACHER!**

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

## Based on the Divine Office-Douay-Rheims Version

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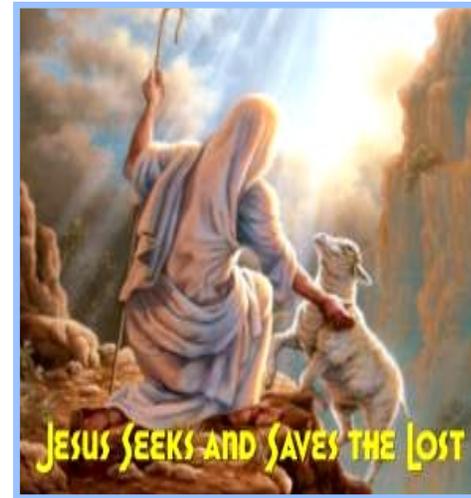
Commentary on the Gospel of Luke 15: 1-10

by: Saint Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop and Doctor

...The race of man wandered upon the face of the earth; it had slipped away from the hand of the Supreme Shepherd. He came to us Who feeds His heavenly flocks above, that he might lead us also into His fold so that He might unite us to those who had not wandered, to drive away the wild beast that works evil, and frustrate the unholy robber band of the unclean spirits of evil. He came seeking the one who was lost, and He showed how foolish and vain were the murmurings of the Jews against Him...

A hundred is the number of His sheep, of whom one wandered from the flock, namely, the race of men, for which the Supreme pastor of all goes searching, leaving the rest, that is, the remaining ninety-nine, in the desert; in a remote and lofty place that is full of peace. Was He then neglecting the greater number and only concerned for this one? Because they remain in total security, sheltered within the right hand of the Almighty, it was becoming that He should have compassion on the one that was lost, in order that nothing might appear wanting to the remaining multitude. When this one was brought back He had then once more a hundred, the perfect number...

The God who rules over all things, must stretch out a saving hand to the wandering sheep, whom the Supreme Shepherd has now in fact redeemed. He looked for it as it wandered afar. He has placed it in a secure sheepfold, safe against thieves and wild beasts: namely, His Church. Let us



praise Him for as the prophet said: *Sion the city of our strength: a savior, a wall and bulwark shall be set therein* (Is. xxvi. 1).

The parable of the woman who had ten pieces of silver, and who we are told lost one, who

thereupon lit a lamp, greatly rejoicing when she finds the piece of silver. This joy He compares to the supreme joy of heaven. From the previous parable, in which the wandering sheep was a figure of the earthly race of men, we learn that we are a creature of the most High God Who has created the things that before were not. *He made us, and not we ourselves*, as it is written (Ps. xcix. 3). And, *he is the Lord our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand* (Ps. xciv. 7).

In the second parable, in which the thing lost is compared to a piece of silver, of which there were ten, that is, a perfect number, or one which makes a complete total (for ten is a complete enumeration, counting from one upwards), we are shown clearly that we have been created in conformity with a royal image and likeness, that, namely of the Most High God. The drachma, the piece of silver, is a coin upon which is stamped a royal image. Who is there doubts that we had fallen and were lost, that we have been