

THROWING A PARTY

By Bill Pugh

People like an excuse for a party. The reason might be celebrating exam results, an engagement, or a special birthday.

All are reasons for celebration, but consider the parables in Luke's gospel.

Three together all celebrating loss and found.

A shepherd searches to find his lost lamb, a woman calls her friends to come and celebrate the finding of one lost coin, and a father's extravagance to celebrate the return to the family of his wayward son, much to the annoyance of his elder brother.

The father goes overboard with preparations for the return of the prodigal son.

All three are celebrations of finding again what has been lost.

God's overwhelming joy and happiness over the return of the sinner who is truly sorry.

As the scripture says, there is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents.

Looking back on our lives we remember times when we have gone astray. But the Bible says: "*God remembers not*". And on the cross Jesus died that we might be forgiven.

Reflection:

Read the three parables in Luke 15.

Take seriously the time for confession in worship at church.

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