

Dear Friends,

I read a great article last week – while preparing for last Sunday's sermon – from *The New Yorker* entitled '*When things go missing*'.

According to the writer, Kathryn Schulz, *"Data from one insurance-company survey suggests that the average person misplaces up to nine objects a day, which means that, by the time we turn sixty, we will have lost up to two hundred thousand things. (These figures seem preposterous until you reflect on all those times you holler up the stairs to ask your partner if she's seen your jacket, or on how often you search the couch cushions for the pen you were just using, or on that daily almost-out-the-door flurry when you can't find your kid's lunchbox or your car keys.)"*

Nine objects a day! Wow!

It was wonderful on Sunday to reflect on some of the times we have lost things and – amazingly - found them again! I heard some great stories from people after the service. The story about Julie-ann's ring is incredible! (Ask her if you're curious!)

(Oh! And I must publish a correction (or addition) to Sunday's sermon. Miriam would like it known that when she – so creatively – informed me that she'd thrown her shoes towards the creek (when, in fact, they were tucked inside her ride-on car) she was only three years old! She also says, I was very angry – and not at all like the picture of the dedicated shepherd or the persistent woman or God!)

I guess there are some similarities between us and our searching for precious things and God's activity in this area – as well as some differences.

We search (and we rejoice when we find) things that are very precious to us. In the same way God and all heaven, Luke 15 tells us, rejoices over people who are precious to God. And all people are precious to God! Something we are mindful and prayerful about as we look about our world at the moment.

We, however, tend to lose things frequently (perhaps up to two hundred thousand things by the time we turn 60), but God has promised to never fail us or forsake us (Duet 31:6) – to go before us and to be with us (Duet 31:8). Perhaps this promise can encourage us in our search for joy and hope and life and for all people.

Grace and peace be with you,

Belinda

PS WE REALLY NEED YOUR CANNED FOOD FOR YOUTH GROUP ON FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER! If everyone could bring in a stack of cans this Sunday that would be fabulous. We are hoping to do some 'can-struction' with cans (check out some of the incredible 'can-structions' here - <https://www.canstruction.org/>) but our 'can-structions' will be rather limited on the basis of what has been donated to date!

PPS If you would like to unsubscribe from this weekly email, please contact office@canbap.org

(Image: *Parables of the Lost Coin and Lost Sheep*, Gary Roulette, 2013)