

Luke 15:1-7

New International Version 1984 (NIV1984)

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage
And then is heard no more. It is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury
Signifying nothing. — Macbeth (Act 5, Scene 5, lines 17-28)



LEADING CAUSES OF LIFE

CONNECTIONS source of Life

All of life is a journey Home. Home to our true selves, our true nature, our true belonging. We can do nothing, feel nothing, or be nothing alone

CONNECTIONS produce Confidence

Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." v2

"For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known." 1 Corinthians 13:12

CONNECTIONS produce Courage

Independence flows from dependence

"Encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." 1 Thess. 5:11

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." Jn 15:5

Are we moving to deeper connections to God and to others?