

Feeling Lost?

2020-06-05 Pastor Sharon Tidd

I attended my god-daughter's Virtual Convocation Ceremony via Zoom yesterday. While honouring 15,000 graduates from the University of Toronto, it had to be the shortest grad ceremony on record! I was grateful to have been able to share in it, and am very proud of her accomplishments.

She majored in performing arts. She sings. She dances. She acts. And she does all extremely well. Her dream is to perform on stage. But her reality is that she completed her studies at a time when theaters world-wide are closed and live performances of any size are not permitted due to COVID-19. Her dream is "on hold" indefinitely. And she is, not surprisingly, feeling a little lost – confused, unsure, perplexed, disoriented, bewildered, uncertain! At graduation time her future should seem bright and full of promise, but instead it is filled with questions.

I feel for her and for all the graduates this year. They didn't just lose out on a big ceremony and dance and special celebrations in honour of their achievements. Moving on to the next phase of their lives should bring excitement and anticipation and joy, but instead, they find themselves in a time when their career dreams may be out-of-reach for the foreseeable future. They've lost out on the adventure that was anticipated for this time in their lives, and instead find themselves in a place of unrest and uncertainty. It's just for a time, but when you're young and excited to get on with your life, that time can seem unending. And that sense of being "lost" in the face of so many unknowns can be overwhelming.

As I reflected on her story and prayed for her yesterday, I was drawn back to the Parable of the Lost Sheep found in Luke 15:3-7. In reading it you'll learn that the sheep in the story was physically lost, having wandered off from the shepherd and the safety of the fold. That sheep represents all those who are spiritually lost, having wandered off from the Great Shepherd and the safety of His fold. The story unfolds with the shepherd searching diligently for his one lost sheep until it

was found. It's a picture of God's search for us (the lost) and His joy in finding us. And I believe its lessons of love can be applied to any circumstance in which we feel lost.

If we're are feeling lost today – emotionally, spiritually, physically, relationally – there's hope for us in this beautiful story that ends with the joy of being found. As I reflected on this story again, I was encouraged in my heart with the truth that to be found by God meant:

- He knows when I am lost!
- He searches for me. He chooses to enter into my lostness. I am worth searching for!
- He is overjoyed when He finds me – smiling from ear to ear!
- He gladly, lovingly carries me home to safety!
- He throws a party in my honour!

And He'll do it all again and again. Nothing touches God's heart more than finding and rescuing the lost!