

Sunday Readings Reflections

9/11/2016

Reading 1 Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14

After the Israelites had agreed to keep God's commandments, Moses returned to the mountain for forty days. While he was gone, the people broke the first commandment

by making an idol to worship in the place of God. With that, the Bible reading pictures God as ready to reject them and start all over again with Moses as the one person who has kept the covenant. But the story shows Moses pleading with God to remember all that God had done for the Israelites and all that God had promised to the Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Hearing Moses' prayer, God forgave the people.

Reading 2 1 Timothy 1:12-17

The second reading is a prayer of thanks for the mercy granted to Saint Paul. Although Paul was once a proud and sinful person, Jesus chose him to be the apostle to the Gentiles. Other Christians could see Jesus, mercy, grace, and patience at work in Paul. They could be assured that even the greatest sinner was not beyond God's reach.

Gospel Luke 15:1-32, or Luke 15:1-10

It's celebration time! The lost sheep has been found. The lost coin has been located. Jesus tells these two "lost and found" parables to show us how delighted God is when a sinner is welcomed home. Notice that God does not just "sit around" waiting and hoping that the sinner will show up. God goes out like a shepherd seeking that one lost lamb, like a woman seeking that one special coin. Then God says, "Rejoice with me! A sinner has repented."

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