

7 Secrets of Confession

Secret 4: Confession is Never Really Private

Luke 15:1-7

“The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to him, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, ‘This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.’

So to them he addressed this parable:

‘What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, “Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.”

I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.”

Reflection on Scripture

Have you ever felt like the “lost sheep”? How did it feel to be “found” or welcomed back whether by God, the Church, or another person?

Book Discussion Questions

How does the phrase “to meet Christ personally” in Confession (p. 71) change or deepen your understanding of the Sacrament? In what ways does this affect how you approach Confession?

How does the shift in thinking “I have to go to Confession” to “I get to go to Confession” change your outlook on the Sacrament? What does the image of going to Confession to receive a “fatherly embrace” invoke in you?

How does a “ripple effect” (p. 86) concept challenge the idea that Confession is just a “private matter” between us and God? What does it reveal about the communal and heavenly impact of our return to God?
