

## Five examples of artwork related to the parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin from Luke 15:1-10.

### 1. The Lost Sheep by Alfred Usher Soord

- **Artist:** Alfred Usher Soord (1868-1915)
- **Interpretation:** Painted in 1898, this oil-on-canvas work dramatically depicts

This striking painting by British artist Alfred Usher Soord depicts a sheep stranded halfway down a steep cliff and the shepherd hanging perilously over the edge, risking his own life to save it. Unlike many historical depictions, which show the shepherd carrying the found sheep, Soord's painting focuses on the tense moment of rescue. The artist highlights the extreme danger the shepherd willingly faces, symbolizing God's relentless and loving pursuit of the one lost sinner.

- **Image:**



### 2. The Parable of the Lost Coin by Domenico Fetti

- **Artist:** Domenico Fetti (1589-1624)
- **Interpretation:** This Baroque-era painting from the 17th century captures the frantic nature of the woman's search for her lost coin. The scene is filled with overturned furniture and scattered objects, conveying her diligent and desperate search. The painting is part of a larger cycle of Fetti's works on parables and represents the church's role in seeking and restoring lost souls. Historical interpretation has changed according to The Christian Century magazine. Does the woman represent Christ or the Church? The latter was predominant at the time of Fetti
- **Image:**



### 3. The Lost Sheep by Sir John Everett Millais

- **Artist:** Sir John Everett Millais (1829-1896)
- **Interpretation:** This wood engraving, created in 1864 for a series on New Testament parables, is a prime example of the Pre-Raphaelite style. Millais's work is known for its detailed naturalism and earthy imagery. The design, which took years to perfect, shows the shepherd tenderly carrying the sheep on his shoulders, emphasizing the joyous conclusion of the parable and the relief of a sinner's return to the flock.
- **Image:**



### 4. The Lost Sheep by William J. Webbe

- **Artist:** William J. Webbe (c. 1830-1904)
- **Interpretation:** Another work from 1864, this oil-on-panel painting depicts a solitary shepherd with his lost sheep in a rugged, barren landscape. The warm, red glow of the evening light contrasts with the harsh environment, suggesting the comforting presence of the shepherd. This piece emphasizes the isolation of the lost sheep and the protective care of the shepherd who finds it.
- **Image:**



## 5. A Parable - The Lost Sheep by Cara B. Hochhalter

- **Artist:** Cara B. Hochhalter (b. 1950s)
- **Interpretation:** This contemporary print from 2019 offers a modern take on the parable. The artist uses a print-making process with a focus on the interaction of light and dark. The heavens appear to rejoice as a "little shepherd finally finds his lost lamb," suggesting that the joy of reconciliation with God is an existential experience. The image is a reminder that the parable holds universal truths relevant to our modern lives.

From the artist – "This is one of the parables that call our attention to the very human situation of losing something and then finding it. We all know the joy of that experience. In this image, even the heavens seem to be rejoicing as a little shepherd finally finds his lost lamb. Jesus suggests that the glory of reconciling in relationship with God is multiplied many times over—and no one is left behind."

- **Image:**

