

## Stolen Wallets, Redux

The person whose wallet was stolen at the Green House

Wrote a second time:

*I thought I'd share with you a little fortuity from my day.*

*I was walking to the co-op with the last roughly \$10 of cash in hand. . .*

*in pursuit of purchasing some soup,*

*crossing through a gas station parking lot,*

*disheartened that I had missed the bus,*

*I look down, and lo and behold, I find a 5-dollar bill. . . .*

*It's uncanny how life plays out.*

*The five dollars I found was like a replacement for the five dollars I lost.*

*All in all, being the victim of theft was not bad.*

*I now don't have to pretend I like(d) the fake Gucci wallet*

*Nor do I have to worry about being short five dollars.*

*It is unfortunate that as humans, we have become flawed*

*And are tempted by and fearful of other people*

*After having personal belongings taken.*

It is tempting to say this is grace,

This is God watching over and restoring what has been lost.

Maybe it is . . .

Yet, there are many who have lost more:

The Olson family who lost a daughter to the "Craig's list killer";

Families who fought a losing battle with the Red River;

Soldiers and civilians lost in Iraq, Gaza, and elsewhere throughout the world;

People who have lost jobs and careers;

The lost health of those in hospitals and nursing homes;

Our list goes on and on!

So what do we say about grace and loss?

There are stories in scripture about finding a coin that was lost or a sheep.

There are stories of the restoration of life – the centurion's daughter and Lazarus.

And there is a story of grace that involves the loss of life,

That story leaves us at the foot of a cross on a Friday afternoon

With a dead man hanging above us;

The great price of grace hanging there for the sake of the whole world.

We may or may not find the \$5 and that is grace's way.

We will suffer losses beyond imagination, that too is grace's way;

U2 sings of grace's way: "Grace finds beauty in ugly things"

Grace's way calls to us and sends us into relationships,

Hanging there for our restoration.

The Sunday of the Passion brings to the One hanging there for the whole world.

Come, let us worship him:

**Grace University Lutheran Church at 8:30 or 10:30 AM and 5:30 PM – NOTE time change**

**University Lutheran Church of Hope at 8:30 and 10:30 AM**

**Mercy Seat at 5 PM (at ULC Hope)**

**Trinity Lutheran Church (at Augsburg's Chapel) at 8:45 or 11 AM.**

Peace, friends  
Fritz Wehrenberg, campus pastor

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