

The Parables of Jesus #28
The Parable of the Lost Coin
(Lk. 15:8-10)
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INTRODUCTION

- A. Tonight we look at the second of the Luke 15 parables -- the story of the lost coin
 - 1. Remember that the story was intended to answer criticism from the Pharisees and scribes
 - 2. Luke 15:1-2
 - Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, ""This man receives sinners and eats with them." (NKJ)
 - 3. Such criticism demonstrated a complete lack of understanding of God and his purposes
 - 4. We saw in the parable of the lost sheep (Lk 15:3-7) that Jesus used the story to explain God's love for man and his desire to save him

- B. The parable of the lost coin makes the same point
 - 1. It is another story taken from the common life of the people
 - 2. It was easily understood and people would relate to it
 - 3. It's presence serves as a kind of verbal underscore, emphasizing the point of God's love for man

- C. Remember the main point of the parable -- how would you respond if you discovered you had lost a silver coin?
 - 1. Wouldn't it be like the woman who searched until she found it?
 - 2. That's very much like how God responds when one person is lost

I. THE PARABLE

A. A woman had ten pieces of silver

1. The coin was a drachma = about 20 cents
 - a. the story isn't told because of the vast worth of the coin in economic terms
 - b. evidently there was some sentimental value considered
2. It may have been an ornamental headdress that was passed down from mother to daughter
 - a. links of silver coins were worn as a symbol of marriage
 - b. that loss would have been greater than the actual value

B. The woman lost one silver coin

1. The difference between losing a coin and a sheep is that the coin doesn't do the wandering off -- the woman is much more at fault
 - a. perhaps she had ignored it -- just laid it down and didn't provide any care for it
 - b. perhaps she had neglected it -- more than lack of care, she forgot about it or didn't properly put it away and secure it
 - c. perhaps she had been careless -- just tossed it somewhere, or put it where it would get mishandled or abused
 - d. perhaps she had been thoughtless -- put it somewhere but then forgot what she did with it
2. Whatever the problem, at some point the woman wanted the coins only to discover that one of them was missing

C. The woman set about to find the coin

1. She lit a lamp
 - a. necessary because houses during that time were built so as to keep out sunlight -- few windows
 - b. the lamp was necessary to help her see
2. She swept the house
 - a. was the house dirty or cluttered -- both promote losing things
 - b. a thorough cleaning reveals a lot
3. She looked for it diligently
 - a. she put forth a serious, energetic effort to find the coin
 - b. she did not stop until she found it

D. She rejoiced with her friends when she found it

1. Wouldn't you do that? Share your good news? It's a good story!
2. We all understand the joy involved in finding lost treasure

II. LESSONS TO LEARN

A. In a general way, the story illustrates God's search for lost men

1. The woman lit a lamp, and God sent a light into the world

a. Luke 2:29-32

"Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel." (NKJ)

b. John 1:4-5

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. (NKJ)

c. John 8:12

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.'" (NKJ)

d. Eph 5:8

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (NKJ)

e. I Jn 1:7

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (NKJ)

2. The woman swept the house clean, God cleanses the world of sin

a. John 1:29

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (NKJ)

b. 1 Cor 6:11

And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. (NKJ)

c. Eph 1:7

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace (NKJ)

d. Rev 1:5

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, (NKJ)

3. The woman searched diligently for the lost coin
 - a. Luke 19:10
for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." (NKJ)
 - b. John 3:17
For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (NKJ)
 - c. John 12:46-50
I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him-- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak." (NKJ)

B. Joy is the result of sinners being saved

1. Acts 8:8
And there was great joy in that city. (NKJ)
2. Acts 15:3
So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren. (NKJ)
3. Rom 15:13
Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (NKJ)
4. Gal 5:22-23
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (NKJ)
5. 1Thes 2:19-20
For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy. (NKJ)

CONCLUSION

A. To the critics who grumbled about Jesus associating with sinners and tax collectors --

1. Do you really understand God's nature and purposes?
2. Do you realize what God is going to accomplish?
3. Do you so completely misunderstand how God feels toward the lost?

B. Can you relate to the woman who lost the coin?

1. Do you understand her sense of loss?
2. Do you understand the diligent search she conducted?
3. Do you understand the joy she felt when she found the coin?
4. If so, then you are beginning to understand God's actions toward man
5. And if you understand God, even a little, you will understand the behavior of Jesus

C. It calls for us to reconsider our own view of sinners and the lost

1. Do you care for them at all?
2. Does it matter to you that they are lost
3. Are you repelled by the sinful or drawn to help them?
4. Watch what God does for them through his son

D. Invitation