

**Luke 15: 8-10; “The Parable of the Lost Coin”, Session # 1 – “A Woman Having Ten Coins”,
Presented by Pastor Paul Rendall on April 7th, 2024,
in the Adult Sunday School.**

Luke 15: 8-10 – “Or what woman, having ten silver coins,, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?” “And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!’” “Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

At the outset of the study of this Parable, I would like you to notice that it has some real similarities to the Parable that we just studied, the Parable of the Lost Sheep. In both parables something is lost. In the first, it is one sheep out of 99. In the second, it is one silver coin out of 10 silver coins. You can also see that after the sheep and the coin are found that those who found them called their friends and neighbors together, saying – Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost, or the piece which was lost. And finally, in both parables, there is rejoicing. In the first there is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents. And in the 2nd there is rejoicing among the angels of God, over the one sinner who repents.

We need to remember that the context of these parables is the Lord Jesus reproving the Pharisees and the scribes over their complaining about Him; that He would receive sinners and that He would eat with them. They obviously did not seem to want to understand that He had come into the world to seek and to save that which was lost. (Matthew 18: 11) So, this 2nd Parable was written from a slightly different perspective than the 1st. In the 1st, Jesus, the Good Shepherd of the sheep, and His ministry of how He saves a lost sinner, is being talked about. In this 2nd Parable it is a woman who is seeking a lost silver coin.

1. We read of this Woman, having had 10 silver coins in her possession, she finds that she has lost one.

Question # 1 – What do the Ten Silver Coins represent?

Answer: The Ten Silver Coins represent lost sinners, first of all. The house that they were lost in was the house of Israel. Jesus who was speaking to the Pharisees and the scribes, was talking to them. And He was giving to them a picture of a woman in a house of that day who had lost this coin. He was giving to them the parabolic picture of a truly virtuous Jewish woman in a house of that day. She had lost one of her precious 10 silver coins. The one coin that she lost was of great value to her. She either misplaced it, or it dropped out of her hand one dark night, and it rolled to some place where she could not find it.

And so, first of all in this Parable, Jesus was trying to convey to the Pharisees and scribes just how valuable one lost sinner should be, to them, in terms of their seeking, searching, and finding that lost sinner and bringing them to a right understanding of God and their need of salvation; that is, the great salvation which could only be found in Him.

Question # 2 – Where has the Woman lost the one silver coin?

Answer: She lost it in her house.

Question # 3 – And what does the house represent in the Parable?

Answer: The house represents the house of Israel in the time when Jesus told the Parable.

Matthew 15: 21-28 – “Jesus went away from there, and withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon.” “And a Canaanite woman from that region came out and began to cry out, saying, ‘Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed.’” “But He did not answer her a word.” “And His disciples came and implored Him, saying, ‘Send her away, because she keeps shouting at us.’” “But He answered and said, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’” “But she came and began to bow down before Him, saying, ‘Lord, help me!’” And He answered and said, ‘It is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.’” “But she said, ‘Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.’” “Then Jesus said to her, ‘O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish.’” “And her daughter was healed at once.”

Question # 4 – Is there anything else that the word “house” can represent in this Parable which has reference for us Gentiles here today?

Answer: I hope that you can see from these, that this Parable has a broader reference, for all of us here today. I want to show you that the lost silver coin can represent something to us Gentiles, as well. It represents a lost sinner who is within any local church; that is, in the house of the Lord of Jesus Christ, as a Gentile. This silver coin represents a person who comes to church regularly, and is regularly under the hearing of the word of God. And, are they are regularly presented with the Gospel.

But somehow they became lost, and they walked away from God, and the good influences of the Woman, the mother church. When we think of this woman, we should think of a local church of believers, or a certain person in the local church, who has lost one of her coins, one of her precious children, to the world, the flesh, and the Devil. They are lost, and she is very concerned about finding them again. She wants to recover them from the darkness and sin that they have fallen into, and she wants to see that silver coin recovered by her efforts again.

So this parable, then, was given to show the diligence of the Woman who was seeking to find one coin which she lost. Her diligence represents the kind of diligence that we should have, in seeking the lost who come to our local church or who are in our local church, but not saved. Let’s look more deeply into the words of this Parable, and the word pictures that it sets forth.

Question # 5 – How can we prove that the Woman in this Parable has reference to us and our church, and our lost coin or coins?

Answer: We must seek to establish the fact that this Woman spoken of in this Parable is the Bride or the Wife of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 3: 29 & 30 – “He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice.” “So this joy of mine has been made full.” “He must increase, but I must decrease.”

Question # 6 – Who is the bridegroom and who is the bride that John the Baptist is talking about here? And what is the joy that John is talking about here?

Answer: The Bridegroom is our Lord Jesus Christ and His Bride, most obviously, is the Church that He had come to die for, and then following His death and resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father, He would build it. So, the woman of our Parable represents Christ’s Church which has been given the Great Commission to preach the gospel to every creature. The joy that John is talking about here is

the Joy of realizing that Christ and all believers in Him are married to each other. And that she was called to be His Bride in order to help Him in His mission to see sinners saved. They will be searched for and found, not only by Himself spiritually, but because of the diligent efforts of the Woman to light the lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully for the coin, the lost person, until they are found.

Mark 16: 15 & 16 – “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.’ “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

Question # 7 – Does this Great Commission to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature apply to more than the apostles that it was given to?

Answer: Yes

Question # 8 – And how do we know this?

Answer: Because the apostles could not by themselves preach the gospel to every creature in every generation of this church age. Therefore this Commission applies to all faithful pastors and all faithful believers in the local churches, to go about to fulfill it.

2nd Timothy 2: 8-10 – “Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.” “Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”

Question # 9 – Why was the apostle Paul will to suffer trouble as an evil doer, and to endure sufferings in his ministry to lost sinners?

Answer: It was that he knew that God had his silver coins, his elect people, among the people that he preached to. And it was his joy to behold them believing in Christ for salvation and becoming inheritors of eternal glory.

Question # 10 – What does the “silver” of the 10 silver coins that this woman has, represent?

Answer: The word “silver” shows us the value of the soul of any person.

Mark 8: 36 & 37 – “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?” “Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Question # 11 – Why does the woman value this one lost silver coin so much?

Answer: The one silver coin that the woman lost is something of great value to her because she knows that every person is created in the image and likeness of God. In this she has something in common with them. It is in this sense that all 10 silver coins belong to her. She knows that we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. The woman has 10 silver coins, and has lost one. She knows that the lost sinner that God intends to save does have value.

Matthew 10: 28-31 – “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.” “But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” “Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin?” “And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will.” “But the very hairs of your head are numbered.” “Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

