

Lost and Found: The Relentless Pursuit of the Spirit

I hope you are enjoying ... and more importantly, being challenged by our series this month. We began two weeks ago in Matthew 13.1-8 by taking a look at the parable of the sower. We discovered how God ... not us ... is the focus of that parable. He sows in both good and bad soil. Last week, we looked at the first of the three parables in Luke 15. These parables point to the saving work of the Father, Son, and Spirit in the rescue of mankind. In them we want you to: **Rediscover** or acquaint yourself with the Saving God. **Reinvigorate** your spiritual life - by trusting in the equipping of God in your transformation. And we wish to **Reinforce** your commitment to share the good news.

I. The Parable

- A. Lost: 15.8: *Or what woman who has **ten silver coins**, if she loses one coin, ...* Jesus is asking, "what if you were this woman, what would you do?"
- B. Seeking: 15.8: *does not light a **lamp**, sweep the house, and search **carefully** until she finds it?*
 - 1. She's diligent. She's looking everywhere. She searches "carefully."
- C. Found: 15.9a: *When she **finds** it, ...* It was something precious. Did whatever it took.
- D. Celebration: 15.9b: *she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, '**Rejoice** with me, because I have found the silver coin I lost!'*
 - 1. She throws a party because she has found what she's lost.
 - 2. Everyone would have said "yeah, if I were that woman, that's what I would have done."

II. Application

- A. Luke 15.10a: *I tell **you**, in the same way, there is joy ...*
 - 1. I tell *you*, who is the you? It's the Pharisees. It's emphatic.
 - 2. *In the same way... there is **joy**...* God's joy is in the recovery of a repenting sinner
- B. 15.10b: *in the presence of God's angels over **one** sinner who repents.*
 - 1. Who is the joy coming from? God!
 - 2. Constant celebration as one sinner after another is sought, found, and recovered.

III. What's In This For Us?

- A. The Work of the Spirit
 - 1. The Spirit's Power to Reveal - *does not **light** a lamp...* it is the Spirit who shines into our darkened and dead hearts.
 - 2. The Spirit's Power to Disrupt - ***sweep** the house...* the Spirit He not only illuminates our heart, but He also stirs our heart. His is ministry of upheaval motivating us to action.
- B. The Activity of God
 - 1. The Spirit is like that woman.
 - a) He pursues by reaching into every dark and hidden place in your heart.
 - b) He desires to bring to life a dead soul, powerless to remove itself from its lost condition.
 - 2. The celebrations in heaven are not just for the recovered coin or sheep, but for the one who recovers... God Himself. Your recovery cost God something

IV. As We Close...

- A. There is no religion that has a God like this. *There is no God who then takes them to live with them for ever and finds in them satisfaction.*
- B. This is our God! This is our Savior. This is our Revealer. This is our Father.
- C. Will you believe?