

LOST AND FOUND

The Lost Coin, And The Careful Searcher / 10.23.22

I. INTRODUCTION (Luke 15:8-10)

- A. Well, what's the main concern of this second parable? What is Jesus getting at through this story?
- B. Well, He's still talking to the Pharisee's and the Scribes, and though He's telling them a different story, He's getting at the same point. The lost coin matters to God! God's not okay that the coin is lost, so He's going to search for it!
- C. The intrinsic value of the coin is too great, to just let it remain lost!
- D. Well, it's about a lost coin, and the heart of the shepherd to go after them. Here, that which is lost, is sought after! It consumes the shepherd enough that He can't just hope, He can't just wish, He can't just desire that the sheep will find Him!
- E. "The Lost Coin, and The Careful Searcher"

II. THE CAREFUL SEARCHER (Luke 15:8-10)

- A. **Luke 15:8** "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?"
 - 1. Well, most commentators agree that this is likely either a widow, a single woman, or a woman with limited means (*though we don't know for sure*).
 - 2. This word "...silver coin...", only appears here in Luke's gospel (*in the whole of the New Testament*). It's the Greek word DRACHMA (Drak-Muh), and it's a measurement that's hard to nail down. So we don't know the exact value of it, but most agree it's similar to a denarius, which was a day's wages.
 - a. *Think \$100 in our terms today.*
 - 3. Now, for a single woman, a widow, or a person with limited means, even if you had 9 other silver coins (\$900), no way would you consider this loss no biggie! A quarter? Oh well. A 100\$, I'm searching for it.
 - 4. And if this is all that she has to her name, and she's carefully watching it, stewarding it, for sure she's not just chalking it as a loss saying, *"Oh well, no biggie, maybe I find it, maybe I don't."*
 - a. Todd—Alaska—Paycheck
 - 5. Well, in the ancient world her house was most likely made out of thick cement, with either no windows or limited windows, meaning that you'd light a lamp in the day or the night to find something on the ground, because it's dark and you simply can't see that well (*no light switch, no app, no Google home turning on your lights and listening to everything you're saying, and no clapper*).
 - 6. So, because there were no lights to turn on, you had to light a lamp, and then start sweeping through the floor, which was most likely dirt and straw, not the easiest place to find a coin.
 - 7. And how long do you search for it? *As long as you looked for the sheep, UNTIL!* This is a careful search, and tedious search, it's a time-consuming search. It's a mind-consuming search.
 - 8. Although it's lost, the coin is still of value. It still has an inscription on it (**Luke 20:19-25**), it's still minted (*meaning it has a date on the coin*). BUT, in its current state, which is lost, it's of no value to her, meaning it can't be spent, it can't be used, it can't be invested, it can't be given. It's lost.
 - 9. But, the coin has tremendous value, but it's lost. Therefore, it must be sought out. It must be looked for.

B. **Luke 15:9-10** *“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.”*

1. Look, the woman has joy, she's rejoicing, celebrating over what was lost and is now found, but it's in the presence of God that even more joy is taking place. She's got great joy, her neighbors and friends have joy, but God has even more joy!
2. Who represents God in the story? The women. What does the coin represent? Lost people, God's creation.
3. Have you ever heard this phrase? *“The angels throw a massive party in heaven whenever someone gets born again!”* That's not what the Bible actually says.
4. The Bible says, *“...there is joy IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ANGELS OF GOD over one sinner who repents.”* Whose joy is? It's God's! God is the One celebrating, God is One throwing a party, God is one jumping and shouting! It's God!
 - a. Beloved, when the lost repent, God rejoices! When we repent, God rejoices!
 1. How many of us are concerned at times about repentance? But why, God rejoices!

C. What's The Big Idea?

1. The big idea that Jesus is getting across to the Pharisees and Scribes, which is who He's talking to, would've been clear: lost people, the sinners and tax collectors, the societally rejected ARE OF GREAT VALUE TO GOD!
2. Whatever they (*Pharisees and Scribes*) had done with true, and pure religion, was something other than what God Himself was doing. Why?
 - a. Because He's sitting with the broken eating, He's sitting with the rejected and eating. And because He's not okay losing one of His coins, even though He has 9 others in hand.
 - b. These broken people He's sitting with, they are of great value to God. They are of so much value to God, that He's taken on flesh, has come among them, and is eating with them to send a message, *“I'm not too busy to look carefully UNTIL I find that which is lost.”*

III. 4 CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

1. We don't find God, God finds us—I totally understand what people are saying, but it's not how it happens. God is the One looking for us. God finds us! How would this coin ever, in its right mind, in the presence of other coins say, *“You know what? I just flipped myself over and jumped right back into the purse. Just like that.”*
 - a. To which all the other coins would say, *“Bro, we saw you. You didn't flip anything.”*
 - b. This means that God is seeking you, both in salvation, and in sanctification. You might be on a quest for spirituality, you might be on a quest to discover truth, but listen, God is the One leading the search party for you! AND THAT'S GOOD NEWS!
 2. The coin doesn't need to be told it's lost—The coin doesn't need to hear from others, *“You are soooo lost, shoot man, shoot lady, how'd you end up so far separated from the purse, and the Searcher? You know it's going to be hard to find you down here, in the dirt and hay.”*
 - a. The coin, like the sheep just needs to know that they are being sought, even while they are lost.
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- b. Just like the sheep in the previous story. We don't need to tell sheep it's lost. It's broken. It's too weak to walk. Why are you out this way? *"You know it's not safe out here, right? You know it's going to get dark soon, and you're going to be an easy target for predators."*
 - c. This doesn't mean that we don't preach, it doesn't mean we don't teach the Gospel, it doesn't mean we don't tell the truth, but it does mean when we come across the broken, the hurting, and the lost we love them, we serve them, we come alongside them, we help them, even while we are working to understand their story.
3. There is great rejoicing in searching for lost coins--What is the joy, is it personal? Well, yes, for sure. But more than that, there is rejoicing on part of the searcher because of the joy that God has. When we partner with God in His local and global mission, we are filled with joy, because He's filled with joy.
- a. Friends, when we realize, when we connect with God's great search mission for our lives, gladly, joyfully we want to respond and join Him in His search mission for others. We when realize that we've been sought, that we've been chased down, when God went through hell and high water to find us, we also in turn, want to go and search for others.
4. We can't forget the loneliness of being lost ourselves—If we forget this, if we lost sight of this, we will lost sight of the lostness of others. If all we are is found, and rejoice over that, and forget about where we were when God found us, we will lose sight on where many others are.
- B. Are you lost today? You can be found! God's looking for you, right now!
- C. Are you found today? Are you joining Jesus in His local and global search party? He's calling you, will you respond and join Him?