

The Heart of God

The Parable of the Lost Coin

Luke 15:8-10

Data: A lifeway research project on churches, Christians and evangelism came out recently. The data is enlightening, but the summary is concerning.

“Sharing the good news that Jesus paid for our sins through His death on the cross and rose again to bring us new life is the mission of the church, but it does not appear to be the priority of churchgoers.” **Scott McConnell**

Why not? When asked why they don't share their faith, it was because of...

- Fear – 22%
- No Opportunity – 17%
- Nothing – 17%
- Rejection/Hostility – 16%
- Unequipped – 10%
- No Interest – 9%
- Busy – 8%

Main Idea: The Heart of God must be the Heart of His People

“Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled saying, ‘This man receives sinners and eats with them.’ So he told them this parable...” **Luke 15:1-3**

Jesus Prioritizes the Lost over the Found That Makes Religious People Mad

So Jesus Explained God's Heart to the Religious – in 3 parables, see #2...

“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” **Luke 15:8-10**

Four Things Illustrate the Heart of God in Luke 15:8-10

I. The Lost

To this woman, a dowry necklace (10 coins) was the most valuable thing she owned. Losing a coin was unacceptable, and giving up was not an option.

II. The Found

“If she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it?” **Luke 15:8b**

In this second parable about the heart of God, Jesus emphasizes the work of the woman finding her coin. It wasn't easy, it wasn't quick, and it required her to sacrifice time and cleanliness to find it.

III. The Celebration

Like the shepherd in the previous parable, Jesus notes that a found coin was cause for celebration in the woman's community. It was a party!

“And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’” **Luke 15:9**

IV. The Point

“I tell you there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over nine-nine righteous persons who need no repentance...I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” **Luke 15:7, 10**

“And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.’” **Mark 1:17**

“Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.’” **Matthew 16:24**

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” **Luke 19:10**

“Mission was not made for the church; the church was made for mission—God's mission.” **Chris Wright**

“The church has nothing to do but to save souls, therefore, spend and be spent in the work.” **John Wesley (Founder of the Methodist Church)**

“Soul winning is the chief business of the Christian minister; indeed, it should be the main pursuit of every true believer.” **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

The most important thing that God, a church, or a pastor can do for found people is to lead them to embrace God's heart!
Are you lost? God has been pursuing you, this pastor has been praying for you, and this church is eager to help you get found!
Are you found? Please resist the very common human temptation to make it all about you and embrace God's heart for the lost!

Main Idea: The Heart of God Must Be the Heart of His People

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities

- *Luke: That you May Know the Truth* – R. Kent Hughes (1998)
- *The Gospel of Luke* – William Barclay (1975)
- *Luke* – Trent C. Butler (2000)
- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Luke (Vol. 24)* – Ronald H. Stein (1992)
- *Tony Evans Study Bible* – Tony Evans (2019)
- *The IVP Bible Background Commentary* – Craig Keener (1993)
- *Evangelism more prayed for than practiced* – Lifeway Research (2019)
- *The Mission of God's People* – Christopher J.H. Wright (2010)
- *The Soul-Winner* – Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1903)

