



DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 5: THE LOST COIN

Read the Text

Luke 15:8-10

⁸“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? ⁹And 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.’ ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Main Point

This chapter of Luke’s gospel has been referred to as the “Heart of the third Gospel” because it beautifully demonstrates God’s heart for those who are astray, lost, and rebellious. In previous weeks, we’ve learned a lot about God’s Kingdom, but today, we get to learn about the King.

Pharisees and Gentiles alike gave Jesus a hard time for communing with outcasts, sinners, and “unclean” people. Through this parable, we receive a vision of Jesus as diligently seeking out these lost people to bring them to Himself. ***Jesus comes to earth to seek and save the lost.*** Instead of ostracizing them, judging them, or passively waiting for them to come to Him, He seeks them out as a woman would seek out her valuable day’s wages.

There’s a nuance to this parable. This coin was worth half to a full day’s wages for this woman. It had value. Similarly, even in our lost state, we have value to God. From the beginning, He created us in His image to enjoy community with Him, and even with the fall, that hasn’t changed. We are valuable to Him. But because of the fall, we’ve squandered some of our value by choosing sin, rebelling, and disobeying God’s word. This is the miracle of the cross. Knowing our every sin, God valued us to send His own son to redeem and restore us to Him. ***Like the woman who values***

her coin, God values us to the point of sacrificing His son to rescue us.

This parable is a beautiful example of Jesus' Kingdom purpose: to find and re-unite sinners to Himself so that we can enter into the Kingdom of God. It also displays his pursuit of us. We can't clean ourselves up for God any more than this coin could clean itself up to be found by the woman. ***God doesn't love us because we're valuable; His love is what makes us valuable.*** When we live lives of repentance and faith in Jesus, God delights in that. He already knows our sin and there's nothing we can do to earn our value or convince Him to find us.

Reflect Together

1. God values us so much that He seeks us out to save us. Sometimes our own distortions get in the way of us believing this truth. We may see Him as having arms crossed, waiting for us to clean ourselves up and pull ourselves together. Or we may think our sin is way too deep to ever be forgiven. He values us though and He pursues us. **How does that truth impact you? What does it mean to you that He sees you as having value? Where do you sometimes struggle to believe this?**
2. Jesus was speaking up against the hypocritical Pharisees who judged others and ostracized those they deemed less holy than them. We can all struggle with Pharisaical tendencies. **Where do you sometimes find yourself feeling self-righteous and in judgment of others, when maybe you should be seeking them out and pursuing them?**
3. **How would you explain this parable to an un-believer and how it's good news to us and to them?** Is there someone in your life that you'd like to take steps towards and share the gospel with more openly and directly? What's a next step you can take in that direction?