

THE LOST COIN

Text: Luke 15:8-10

Key Word: Lost

Key Thought: Is There Anything with an Important Image That We Have Lost?

This is the second part of the parable that Jesus taught about **lost things**. Our thoughts move from the countryside where the sheep grazed to a modest home of a poor woman.

Shepherds and the poor women were considered the outcasts of society according to the scribes and the Pharisees. Jesus continues His response to the statement made in verse 2.

"This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Luke 15:2

Several thoughts seem to parallel themselves as we ponder the truth within this parable.

1. The shepherd, the woman and the father all agonize over that which is lost.
2. Both the Shepherd and the woman begin at once to seek after that which is lost.
3. Every effort is made and continued until the lost was found.
4. All respond in a joyful manner within their financial capabilities.

Lets Answer Three Questions to Better Understand this Parable

I. WHAT DID SHE LOSE? (Luke 15:8a)

II. HOW DID SHE FIND IT? (Luke 15:8b)

III. WHAT WAS HER RESPONSE? (Luke 15:9-10)

I. WHAT DID SHE LOSE? (Luke 15:8a)

We are quickly told that this woman had lost one of ten coins. In contrast to the lost sheep we move from 1/100 to 1/10. Perhaps this makes it even more significant. But every coin has a value. **We must determine the value of the coin.**

Scholars tell us that what she lost was a Greek silver coin called "*a drachmae.*" It was equivalent to the **Roman denarius**. In about the year 300 BC it represented the value of a single sheep, but it was considerably de-valued during the first century AD. **It was considered about a days wage for a simple labourer.**

I. WHAT DID SHE LOSE? (Luke 15:8a) (Contd.)

It would have the value of an **English shilling** or an **American quarter**. Therefore, at first glance it appears to be an insignificant coin to spend time searching for. Surely she would make more money by working instead of searching. But here stands a woman of earnest intention.

G. Campbell Morgan, who moved from Gloucestershire, England in 1900 to East Northfield, Massachusetts to carry on in the mission founded by Dwight L. Moody has given us an impressive explanation.

Brother Morgan explained,

*** The women of that time often wore upon their brow a frontlet that was called a "*semedi*." It was made up of coins, in themselves perhaps largely valueless . . . under a shilling. But it was a coin that had stamped on it the **image of authority**.

Some hold that it was a frontlet that revealed betrothal; and again, others, that it revealed the marriage relationship. Whether it was of little monetary value or not, it was of priceless value to the woman who wore it. ***

"Parables and Metaphors of our Lord"

G. Campbell Morgan

p. 212

This jewelry that symbolized a union was now imperfect. It was like losing the entire frontlet. It was an article of charm and adornment. There was a sentimental value which could not be replaced.

*** I remember the disheartening feeling I had in 1975 when I lost an item of significant value. Sharon and I were married on April 26, 1975 but we could only afford a single ring. Sharon continued to pay monthly for my ring until she was able to give it to me for Christmas in 1975.

Within a day of receiving it I visited my father and somehow lost it in his tiny apartment. I felt terrible as I searched. My thoughts began to retrace my steps.

Finally, I returned to my father's apartment and searched diligently until I lifted a towel and I heard the ring hit the floor. It came off as I dried my hands earlier. ***

II. HOW DID SHE FIND IT? (Luke 15:8b)

There is no doubt that this woman felt guilty and frustrated at her loss. The sheep was lost

probably, due to its own foolishness but the coin was lost through **the carelessness or inattentiveness of the owner. The sheep was lost in the field but the coin was lost at home.**

This woman probably lived in a peasant's home with a door but no windows. She first lit a lamp. **Doesn't it appear strange that the place was darkened and she felt no need of lighting up her home until now?**

"No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl (where it will smother and die). Instead he puts it on a stand, so that those who come in may see the light."

Luke 11:33

Here is a picture similar to a rabbinic parable of AD 200 of a man who had lost something valuable in his house so he lit many lamps and hunted for it until he found it. That story was likened to a man who studied the torah and found wonderful truths which are of eternal value.

Perhaps the woman in this parable of Jesus had a candle already lit but it didn't give off enough light to find the lost coin. She may have even trampled the coin under her foot without noticing it. This woman began to carefully sweep her earthen floor in an attempt to uncover the lost coin. **Possibly some of her water supply was sprinkled to keep the dust down. It was a search that cost her something.**

Our text distinctively shows us that she worked carefully. **This was not an act of anger or of violence.** There was also no mention of the thought of "why me."

Why did she only search at home? Maybe she knew that any attempt outside her home was futile. **She found it because she never gave up.** She was earnest in her careful search.

III. WHAT WAS HER RESPONSE? (Luke 15:9-10)

You'll notice that the response of the shepherd, woman and the father were all that of rejoicing and celebration. The woman invited her friends to the no doubt modest celebration. It may have been small but it was with great feeling. The book of Job tells us that at the time of creation,

"the morning stars sang together, and all the angels shouted for joy."

Job 38:7

III. WHAT WAS HER RESPONSE? (Luke 15:9-10) (Contd.)

How much more can we expect the angels to rejoice when someone is born as a new creation of Christ? What a choir for a simple peasant woman to afford. Not only is there her voice and that of her friends and neighbours, but also the voices of the heavenly realm join in.

Paul wrote,

"His (God's) intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realm."

Ephesians 3:10

It's not as if we can withhold these truths from the angels and created celestial beings, but still, we need to understand that they will join in with our songs of celebration.

How does this simple parable relate to us?

Perhaps we have lost someone of great value. Maybe this one signifies our spouse or fiancée. It could be one of our children or a close relative, or someone who would normally be in our home.

No one else may see the value in this one insignificant "coin". You may have lost this one through a careless act.

This person was created in the image of God - an image of authority.

Maybe you lost this one through inattentiveness. You were caught up in the daily routine of life.

If this is the case you need to turn the light up in your home. Expel anything that has the capability of producing evil - expel the darkness. Light a candle of greater prayer and Bible study. Light a candle of good intents and thoughts.

Be careful about kicking up the dust. Use wisdom. Make a plan and follow it. Do a careful searching. **Remember what you're trying to discover. Don't get sidetracked.** When the lost one has been found, share your joy with others.

It's time for household salvation. It's time to see our loved ones returning to God. It's time to rejoice in the house of our God and of His Christ. It's time for heaven to join our happiness with accolades of rejoicing praise !!!

C:\My Documents\WPWin(X7)\Sermons.2017\Parables/Luke 15_8.10.wpd

Date: Jan 22/17

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: I'm Trading My Sorrows

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