

SERMON: THINGS TOO VALUABLE TO LOSE

Luke 15:8-9

(8) Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it. (9) And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbors together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.

Introduction

Have you ever lost something of value? Have you ever misplaced your wallet, cellphone, or even your paginated Bible? How about important documents like your automobile registration or your proof of vaccination? Sometimes, I have put important documents in a special place to secure them, but there was a problem: I forgot the location of the special place. There are some things too valuable to lose and if we lose them, we immediately initiate a frantic, urgent search to find them.

Let me make it clear from the beginning that you cannot lose your salvation. Once saved, always saved. Salvation is like the main course of our banquet with God. We will always have the entrée, but we can lose or omit the appetizer, the salad, and the dessert.

This short parable of the lost coin sparkles with beauty and realism. It reveals all of the emotions of anxiety and worry about lost objects of value. It also reveals the joy when the lost object is recovered.

Jesus portrays a woman who had ten silver coins. These coins were part of her dowry and were worn as ornamental decoration on her headdress. The loss of one of these coins caused dismay, anxiety, and worry. The modern equivalent may be a woman's engagement ring and a wedding band with studded diamonds. The loss of one of these studded diamonds would be a serious problem. The modern male equivalent would be the loss of one of the cuff links which was part of an expensive, elegant set. When the woman realized that one coin was missing, she knew that it must have become detached and fallen off. It was unthinkable that someone might have stolen it. The place to look for the coin was in her own home.

During that time, houses of the poor were constructed without windows. Near the ceiling, perhaps, a few stones were left out of the wall to provide some ventilation. This opening, together with the entrance, did not give the inside of the house much light. Even in the middle of the day the house was relatively dark. The woman would have to light a candle in order to search for the coin that was somewhere on the stone floor. Animals were frequently kept inside rural homes, although in a somewhat separate part of the dwelling. This was to prevent their livestock, their sources of food and

transportation, from being stolen. Besides, the house served as a place where the poor owner stored useful goods.

Somewhere in the house was the coin the woman had lost. She took a broom and with the light of the candle illuminating the room, she swept the house carefully. Every place where she might have been was searched, until at last she caught sight of a gleam of metal or heard the tinkle of the coin upon the hard floor. Her anxiety and worry suddenly disappeared and gave way to joy and jubilation.

There are many interpretative angles to this parable. I want to look at it from the angle that some things are too valuable to lose and when we lose or misplace them, we should make every effort to find and secure them. As we navigate this busy, ever changing, secular world, we must be on our constant guard to protect the true principles and values of Jesus Christ, our Savior. I will be the first to admit, that sometimes it is not easy. Remember, our help comes from the Lord. Here are a few things that are too valuable to lose. I am sure each of you can think of many more.

Exposition

1. Sense Of Humor.

(Proverbs 15:13; Proverbs 15:15; Proverbs 17:22).

2. Sense Of Responsibility.

(Romans 1:14-15).

3. Sense Of Integrity.

(Romans 12:21).

4. Sense Of Hope.

(Lamentations 3:21-22).

5. Sense Of Thankfulness.

(1st Thessalonians 5:18).

Closing Statements

Just as travelers make a thorough check of the hotel room before they depart to make sure nothing of value is left behind, we have to constantly examine our spiritual lives to make sure all of our values are intact. This is why Sunday School, Bible Class, Corporate Worship, and personal time with God is so important. I know these are tough times, but let's not give up on God. He has not given up on us. Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory.

End Note

The Hebrew word for merry in Proverbs has many implications which are lost in the English translations. It means to have a cheerful disposition, a positive attitude, civility, and a respectful sense of humor.

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