

THIS IS YOUR VALUE! Luke 15:8-10

Int: A poor woman with only ten silver coins in her bridal headdress saw one day that one was missing. A typical Eastern home was poorly lit and had no proper flooring, only tamped-down dirt covered with dry reeds. Lighting a lamp, she moved every piece of furniture and scratched through the reeds with her palm-leaf broom until she saw the gleam of the coin. Clutching it in her hand, she called in her neighbors to rejoice with her!

Jesus aimed this story at critics who sneered at him for slumming with tax-collectors and “sinners” whom they despised. If he was of God, they thought, he would avoid these undesirables. The story showed how out of step with God they were. Highest heaven approved Jesus’ deeds. If her friends rejoiced with the woman over finding one small coin, how much more should his critics rejoice with God over the recovery of one lost sinner.

Think about that silver coin. Consider it as

LOST

The coin was minted to serve as money and was prized as a decoration. Because it was lost, however, it could not serve the purpose for which it was made. It was as useless as if it never existed. Yet it still had great value. Though tarnished and dusty, it was still silver and still bore Caesar’s image.

Like that coin, a lost sinner has missed the great purpose for which he was made. He might as well never have been made. However, even if lost and blurred and marred by sin, every sinner still shines as precious stuff stamped with the likeness of the King of the Universe!

A lost sinner is of great value to God!

SOUGHT

The woman looked for the coin as if she had no others. And she refused to stop until she clutched it safely in her hand.

If one man is lost, nine are not enough for God! He can never sit down contented so long as one man bearing his image lays lost in the dust and dirt of sin. This is the one absolutely new thing Jesus revealed about God. A Pharisee might have agreed God would take back a sinner who came home begging for pity. But he never once suspected God went out looking for sinners! Jesus said God goes after the lost like that woman went after her coin.

The Almighty is always after the lost. To be godly one must do as God does!

A lost sinner is the object of God’s search!

FOUND

When she found her coin, the woman called in friends to share her joy.

What makes God dance with joy? His people may rejoice over a record church attendance, reaching a missions offering goal, or retiring a debt. But the ONE THING Jesus said makes God glad is word that a lost sinner has been saved! It is *God* who rejoices in the presence of the angels!!

A lost sinner, when found, brings God great joy!