

The parable of the lost silver coin



Luke 15:8-10

The Lord Jesus had many discussions with the self-righteous scribes and Pharisees. On one such occasion the discussion centred around the association with sinners. By means of a parable, the Lord Jesus illustrated to these scholars that God rejoices over all who repent and better themselves. He related the parable of a woman who had lost one of her ten silver coins. She searched for it until she eventually found it and then called in her friends and neighbours to tell them the good news.

The children realize that God rejoices over each and every sinner who comes to him and repents.

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he Lord Jesus speaks to many people. His words often cause his listeners to ponder about their conduct. There are always people amongst his listeners who have made grave mistakes or have behaved badly. They are known to be sinners and are consequently despised and shunned by others.

The Lord Jesus shows compassion for these poor people. He speaks to them. He eats with them. He wants to help them to better themselves. He lovingly explains to them that God is a merciful and good Father.

Many prominent and respected Israelites do not understand the Lord Jesus' love for these sinners. They disapprove of his associating with them. They are convinced that they are right in shunning and despising such people.

To explain his actions to these uncomprehending Israelites, Jesus relates a special story: a parable. He begins:

"A woman has ten silver coins. She is very happy about this. But one day she notices that one of these silver coins is missing. She counts once more ... indeed, she only has nine coins."

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The Lord Jesus asks: "Now, who wouldn't light a lamp and search the entire house until that coin is found?" The listeners nod in agreement. Jesus Christ then continues: "The coin can't have disappeared, so the woman searches thoroughly. She opens her bag, she looks inside her jugs and vases. She searches in every corner and uses the lamp to look under all the furniture. She then fetches a broom and sweeps the whole house. She searches patiently until she has found the lost coin. She is extremely happy. She wants to share her joy with others, so she hurries to her friends and neighbours saying: 'Rejoice with me! I have found the coin that I lost.'"

The listeners can understand the woman's joy and that of her friends and neighbours. Who would not rejoice when they find something they have lost?

But the Lord Jesus wanted to show much more with this parable. It serves as an example of God's grace and goodness. He seeks the lost ones; he wants to save them. He rejoices about those who come to him, truly regret their mistakes and better themselves. That is why the Lord Jesus now says: "Just as that woman was overjoyed at finding her coin again, so God rejoices over each and every sinner who repents."

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The Lord Jesus told a parable: "A woman lost one of her ten silver coins. She searched everywhere until she found the coin. She joyfully told all her neighbours: 'I have found the coin I lost! Rejoice with me!' Like that woman, God rejoices over every sinner who repents."

- 1 The children describe the picture. They then draw nine coins on the table shown in the picture. The lost tenth coin they draw somewhere into the picture where it is slightly hidden. The children deliberate what the woman will do now.**
- 2 The children put themselves in the woman's position. What does she tell her friends and neighbours? (The joy at recovering the coin is the most important aspect of this parable.)**
- 3 What did the Lord Jesus want to illustrate with this parable? The children try to put the Lord Jesus' account into their own words. (God already rejoices over one single person who recognizes his mistakes and betters himself. He wants the lost ones to be saved. His Son, the Lord Jesus, set this example in word and deed during his lifetime. He urges everybody to rejoice over those lost ones who have been found again.)**
- 4 We look at the photograph. The children relate their own experiences of finding something they had lost.**