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# The Lost Sheep and the Shepherd's Joy

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Lk. 15:1-10.

THE LOST COIN & THE LORD'S JOYINT:

There was never any doubt in all of Christ's ministry what His PURPOSE on earth was:

MATT. 9:13. Call sinners to repentance!

LUKE 19:10. Seek and save the lost.

JOHN 18:37. Bear witness to the TRUTH.

WHAT DID HE DO? Acts 10:38. Did good - all good!

QUESTION: What should He do when sinners came for help?

Teach them, rebuke them, correct them, receive them!

QUESTION: What was wrong with the Jews who did not want Jesus associating with them at all? Point of Lesson!!

TODAY: 2nd parable given to explain His mission and to attempt to save ALL sinners: Open and Hidden!!!

I. THE PARABLE: (1st parable: Shepherd & Sheep. "A man.")

A. This Parable about a woman who lost a COIN.

1. COIN: Greek drachma (like Roman denarius).

a. Value? From 16¢ to 18¢ - days wage.

Measure in silver: 65.5 grains. Medical!!!

2. 10 silver coins valued at from \$1.40 to \$2.00.  
(6 shillings. / or 7-pence, 3 farthings ????)

3. Why not just pick it up off the floor? Know what their floors were like? Dirt! Covered by straw, grass, dried reeds or rushes. Like needle in a hay stack!!!! Diff. problem!

4. Why light a candle in Broad Daylight? Have door <sup>ONE</sup>  
Houses of the poor had no windows or screens. Sometimes an 18" opening, but never more. Dark!

5. "SWEEP" the floor - or more like rake it. Some used straw floors as long as possible and then threw them out! Shuffled the straw back & forth searching. QUESTION: What happens to old silver? Tarnishes!!! Dark as dirt!

B. Why hunt for 16¢ frantically? Desperately?

Persistently. Doggedly? On and on until she found it. NO WAY NOT GOING TO FIND IT, Imperative!

1. THREE POSSIBLE REASONS GIVEN HISTORICALLY, maybe FOUR:

a. FIRST: Economic necessity. They lived on edge daily. 16¢ buy tomorrow's meals. Had 10!

b. SECOND: Romantic adornment: Wives often wore 10 silver coins on bracelet, necklas, or around their head-band. Like wedding band.

Irretrievable gift. Forever lost! Never used to find it! "ONE"

FEB 1 1990

- c. Third: Social faux pas. Keeping another's ten coins. Unthinkable not to return the full amt. Lose a life-time friend. Women didn't earn money! Slim chance she could ever replace it! Frantic.
- d. Fourth: Most-intriguing! Her dowry. A bride preparing for her WEDDING. Strand of coins broke. She panicked. No dowry, no wedding.

IF NO WEDDING: 3 bad choices: Slavery at home, Prostitution in the market place or starvation. No employment opportunities in public then.

- e. Now easy to understand her tremendous joy with her lady-friends! "Friends & Neighbors" are in the feminine gender in the Greek. Maids of Honor!?

## II. THE LORD'S LESSON:

1. First: Jesus subtly CONDEMNS their murmuring against Him and the Good He is trying to do. Shame!!
2. Second: To fully and staunchly JUSTIFY His actions in attracting sinners for correction & salvation.
3. Third: They themselves REJOICE at the return of everything lost of the ave---so why shouldn't God rejoice with His angels in Heaven when some of His wayward children repent and COME HOME!
4. Fourth: for the astute observer Jesus hoping to SAVE all the kinds of sinners: Super-self-righteous like them; as well as the Publicans and Sinners.
5. Jesus hoped to touch the human-nerve of sympathy within their hearts. All have one! Feel for the lost-frightened sheep and joy of the Shepherd AND anguished and distress of the woman and her elation over finding her coin. Just like God!!!!

CLOSE: This is ABSOLUTELY A NEW REVELATION TO THE JEWS IN THIS parable: (In heathen-oriental religions Confucius and Buddah & other ethic-religions the MASTER sits passively, waiting for the poor wretched, sinful souls to COME TO THEM on their knees to beg pardon.) This is different! Here God, in Christ, is out there SEARCHING & SEEKING the lost. Boggled their mind!!! JESUS offered them the greatest INVITATION ever spoken by the lips of God or man! Matthew 11: 28-30. COME HOME!!!

*This is what Jesus was saying to the Publicans & Sinners & Us!*

*North F.W. Women's Club  
10-15-90. 10:30 A.M.*