

## THE PARABLE OF THE LOST COIN // Luke 15:8-10

*Message from the series, Lost and Found*

Every person falls into one of two categories: you are either saved or lost. To be lost is to be lost—there is no difference in degree of lostness. But there are different kinds of lostness. Each of the parables in this chapter focuses on a different kind of lostness. The lost sheep represents those who know they are not in the fold, and they are likely scared and lonely in their lostness—they know they need a savior to carry them to safety. The prodigal son represents those who, at least initially, love lostness. They know they are lost, and they like it. The lost coin, however, represents those who don't know their own lostness. They have no theological categories, no concept of the gospel, and no idea about the Bible.

**Main Idea: God saves people who don't know they are lost.**

The parable of the lost coin gives us four categories:

**1. The Common Woman (v. 8)** The woman depicted in this parable is an ordinary woman in an ordinary context. It's possible that she was a young, married woman, and the coin she lost was from her bride price, which was often worn as a necklace or headband. Its loss would have been financially and emotionally significant. She looks for her lost coin in the same way that God looks for lost people.

**2. The Lost Coin (v. 8)** While a lost sheep could be aware of its plight and looking for a rescuer, and the prodigal son could have returned home but didn't want to, the lost coin is entirely helpless and hopeless. It cannot seek help; it doesn't even know it needs help. It doesn't know it is lost, and it will remain in whatever spot it has landed in until the one looking for it finds it. God looks until he finds.

**3. A Hard Search (v. 8b)** This is not a lackadaisical search. The seeker:

a) Lights a lamp. God will turn on the lights in a sinner's life, and that person will begin to develop an appetite for the things of God.

b) Sweeps the room. God will turn the sinner's world upside down and create an utter mess to find the one who is lost. This may look initially like disaster, but God will use it for his own purposes. For the Philippian jailer of Acts 16, the earthquake looked like the end of his career and even his life—but God used it to bring him to salvation.

c) Searches through the dust. God will carefully sift through the dirt in your life to find you and pull you out.

**4. The Fresh Joy (v. 9-10)** When the search is complete, there is rejoicing. When a lost person is found, there is rejoicing in heaven—of which, Jesus had been an eye witness. The vision of the rejoicing in heaven and of the multitude that will be gathered there (Revelation 7: 9) is motivation to take the gospel to the world and to live life on mission.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your condition when God found you? Did you know you were lost? Was there a time when you loved your lostness? Or did God turn on a light and sweep through your life?
2. Do you know people who don't know they are lost? How can we pray for them? How can we pray for people groups around the world who have not heard the gospel?
3. Is the joy of being found still fresh for us? How can we renew our joy in the Lord and in our salvation?