

Luke 15: 8-10; “The Parable of the Lost Coin”, Session # 2 – “The Woman Lighting a Lamp”, Presented by Pastor Paul Rendall on April 14th, 2024, in the Adult Sunday School.

Luke 15: 8-10 – “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?” “And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!’” “Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Today we want to think as this Woman thought in this Parable. We want to be like her in relation to our witness to those who are unsaved, those who regularly attend church, or other people all around us. Like her, we want to light a lamp to find the lost coin.

Review –

We read of this Woman, having had 10 silver coins in her possession, she finds that she has lost one.

Question # 1 – What do the Ten Silver Coins, the woman, and the house that she is in, represent?

Answer: We have seen that the Ten Silver Coins represent lost sinners. The house that they were lost in was the house of Israel in Jesus’ day. In our day it represents the local church. The woman represents the Bride of our Lord Jesus Christ. All in the local church should be helping our Lord in finding the one silver coin which has been lost. The one silver coin that the woman lost is something of great value to her because she knows that every person is created in the image and likeness of God. In this she has something in common with them. It is in this sense that all 10 silver coins belong to her. She knows that we all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. She knows that the lost sinner that God intends to save does have value. She knows that all lost sinners have been created in the image and likeness of our God. Even though the image is marred, yet this is what makes the soul of sinner valuable to God. And it ought to be seen this way by ourselves as well.

1. Our Witness to those who are unsaved who regularly attend church.

Question # 2 – What does the Woman lighting a candle, or a lamp, represent?

Answer: It means that Christ’s Church which He calls, the light of the world, will pray to God to let their light so shine to others around them, that both in church and in family, and in society at large, people will see their good works and glorify their Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5: 14-16 – “You are the light of the world.” “A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.” “Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.” “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Question # 3 – Jesus’ saying to us and to all disciples, you are the light of world, means what?

Answer: It means that we have been given grace by the Holy Spirit to shine the truth forth to people in our words and deeds, truth which will cause them to understand the gospel and the word of God better. All in the house are thereby given light; that is, all in the local church, and all in the society around us will understand, through our witness by word and deed, that Christ came into the world to save sinners.

Question # 4 – What does putting the light on a lampstand so that it will give light to all who are in the house, mean?

Answer: It means that the preaching and teaching of the word of God, ought to be put in the most prominent place in the public worship of the church, so that it will give spiritual light to all those who are in the local church, and to every visitor, or unconverted regular attender, so that they might understand.

2. The Mission of the People of God in both Old and New Testament times is pictured by this woman who lights a lamp to seek for the lost coin.

Luke 15: 8 – “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?”

Question # 5 – What does it mean in our Parable that the woman having lost one coin, lights a lamp? What does lighting a lamp, or a candle, mean?

Answer: The woman lighting a lamp means that the people of God in both Old Testament and New, uses the word of God to shine the light of the gospel of Christ to the sinner who is lost in darkness. This is done by the preaching and sharing of the gospel and the word of God so that people who are lost will hear it and see the truth, and be saved.

a. The Woman Lighting a Lamp in the Old Testament times

Proverbs 8: 1-11 – “Does not wisdom cry out, and understanding lift up her voice?” “She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, beside the way, where the paths meet.” “She cries out by the gates at the entry of the city, at the entrance of the doors: “To you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of men.” “O you simple ones, understand prudence, and you fools, be of an understanding heart.” “Listen for I will speak of excellent things, and from the opening of my lips will come right things; for my mouth will speak truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips.” “All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; they are all plain to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge.” “Receive my instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.”

Question # 6 – Now, why would you think that wisdom is pictured here for us as a woman street evangelist, as it were?

Answer: Because wisdom is something which God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ wants us to inculcate to our children and everyone who will listen. Wisdom here represents everyone who knows God making this appeal to others around them, their children and their neighbors, to be wise with the wisdom which comes from God and from His word. Wisdom is said here to be more valuable than silver and choice gold, better than rubies, and all the things that one may desire cannot be compared with her. That is how valuable the wisdom that leads to salvation and knowing God is.

b. This Wise Woman builds her spiritual house by inviting sinners to eat of the spiritual provisions that she has may ready for them.

Proverbs 9: 1-6 & verse 10 – “Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn out her seven pillars; she has slaughtered her meat, she has mixed her wine, she has also furnished her table.” “She has sent out her maidens, she cries out from the highest places of the city, ‘Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!’” “As

for him who lack understanding she says to him, ‘Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.’ “Forsake foolishness and live, and go in the way of understanding.” “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

Question # 7 – Should we who live in New Testament times invite people to read God’s word, and see what God has provided for all people through His sending His Son, and His having Him to live a sinless and a righteous life, and die upon the cross; to eat of His bread and drink of His wine, to forsake foolishness and live, and go in the way of understanding?

Answer: Yes, we most certainly should, for this is preaching and sharing the gospel with them.

c. We should show our children and others who do not yet know the Lord, that it is important that they should pray for wisdom.

Proverbs 2: 1-9 – “My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.” “For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity, and every good path.”

Question # 8 – According to these words, what should we tell our children and others to do if we want them to be wise?

Answer: We should tell them to receive God’s word, treasure His commands within them, incline their ear to wisdom and apply their heart to understanding. We should tell them to cry out to have spiritual discernment, and lift up their voice in prayer for understanding of God’s word. And that if they seek for wisdom as for silver (the silver coin) and search for her as for hidden treasure (the hidden treasure of Christ in the field of the Scriptures) then they will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Question # 9 – If we want them to come to know the Lord, what should we tell them about God Himself, in terms of what he does for us who know Him?

Answer: He does have wisdom to give, and that in Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. That He stores up wisdom and that He is a shield to those who will walk uprightly before Him. He guards the paths of justice and preserves the way of His saints. In other words, He who has begun a good work in you, will complete it. And that persevering in the faith is based upon His faithful watchcare over your life. We should tell them that the Lord is the keeper of all His saints. When they believe in the Lord Jesus, He will keep their soul. He will never leave them, nor forsake them. He will always be with them and He will not turn away from doing them good, according to the New Covenant.

d. The Woman lighting a Lamp in the New Testament Times.

Acts 16: 25-34 – “But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.” “Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.” “And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.” “But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, ‘Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.’” “Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before

Paul and Silas.” “And he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ “So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’ “Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.” “And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes.” “And immediately he and all his family were baptized.” “Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.”

Question # 10 – What is it that is mentioned here which was a good witness to the keeper of the prison and the other prisoners? (verse 25)

Answer: It was that Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God.

Question # 11 – And how do we know that their witness was having a good effect on them?

Answer: Because it says in verse 25 – “And the prisoners were listening to them.”

Question # 12 – The Woman of our Parable is pictured as seeking for the lost coin diligently. What do you think according to the Bible, we should tell sinners around us to do if we want them to find the knowledge of God and the knowledge of salvation? (verse 31)

Answer: Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.