

**Luke 15: 8-10; “The Parable of the Lost Coin”, Session # 4 – “The Woman Searching Carefully”, Presented by Pastor Paul Rendall on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 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.”

The Woman searching carefully means that all of us in the local church, parents, singles, married couples, everybody who is interested in the salvation of the lost coin (the lost sinner in our midst) ought to search carefully for the reasons why that person is still lost. There are some common misconceptions that we ought to try to clear up with them if we are able. This, I believe, is what “the woman searching carefully” means.

**1. Clearing up a Possible Misconception of the Fatherhood of God.**

**Question # 1** – In what way should we understand the woman “having” or “possessing” these 10 silver coins? In what sense are they hers?

**Answer:** They are hers in the sense that she knows that God has created all people in His image and likeness, and because of that she feels a common bond with them in their mutual humanity and their fallen condition in Adam. She has these 10 silver coins in her possession, as being hers, in the sense that she understands that God created all men. Often, a silver coin would have an image and inscription on it. On our hearts is inscribed God’s image, fallen though it is.

Therefore, we should see that this woman has the highest welfare of every person around her, in her mind and heart. In the Old Testament times, the Jews were God’s only covenant people. God sent them His only-begotten Son that whoever would believe in Him would have everlasting life. (John 3: 16)

This Woman of our Parable well represents those who were faithful to God among the Jews before and during the time of the coming of their Messiah; those who would seek for the lost silver coin; those who didn’t know God, that they might be found and come to know God. She thinks about the Fatherhood of God and loves them enough that she will tell them what is pleasing and displeasing to Him.

**Question # 2** – In what sense then is God the Father, the Father of all mankind?

**Answer:** He the Father of all mankind because He created all men.

**Malachi 2: 10 & 11** – “Have we not all one Father?” “Has not one God created us?” “Why do we deal treacherously with one another by profaning the covenant of the fathers?” “Judah has dealt treacherously, and an abomination has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem, for Judah has profaned the Lord’s holy institution which He loves: He has married the daughter of a foreign god.”

**Question # 3** – Should we see the souls of unbelieving men as belonging to God, or belonging to the Devil?

**Ezekiel 18: 4** – “Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine; the soul who sins shall die.”

The woman knows that all souls ultimately belong to God. And she knows that God has chosen to save certain lost sinners from among all of mankind. She has that in her mind, because what belongs to God and to Christ is also hers, in that she is representing Wisdom Personified which is only found in Jesus Christ. That wisdom is only found among those who know God, and have been saved by the Lord Jesus Christ. This woman herself was once a lost sinner perishing in her sins. And so she has a great concern to seek and to find the lost coin, even as our Savior came to seek and to save that which was lost.

## **2. Not Understanding that the Devil is the father of all the unbelieving.**

**John 8: 38-45** – “I speak what I have seen with My Father, and you do what you have seen with your father.” They answered and said to Him, ‘Abraham is our father.’ “Jesus said to them, ‘If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham. But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God.’ “Abraham did not do this.” “You do the deeds of your father.” “Then they said to Him, ‘We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God.’ “Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.’ “Why do you not understand My speech?” “Because you are not able to listen to My word.” “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.” “He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.” “When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” “But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me.” “Which of you convicts Me of sin?” “And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?” “He who is of God hears God’s words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.”

**Question # 4** – In what sense, then, do unbelieving, lost souls, belong to the Devil, or evidence themselves to be his children?

**Answer:** They are not of his substance, but they are his children by imitation and example.

**Question # 5** – What kinds of thoughts and actions do these Jews think and do which evidence them to be children of the Devil, and not Abraham’s children, or God’s children?

**Answer:** They sought to kill Jesus when He told them the truth that He had heard from God. It was their desire to kill Jesus and so they did not stand in the truth. They didn’t understand Jesus’ speech because they weren’t able to listen to His word. They did not want to hear God’s words, and therefore they were not born of God.

## **3. Not Understanding that the True Christian’s Boast is in the Lord.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3: 21-23** – “Therefore let no one boast in men.” “For all things are yours; whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas,, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come – all are yours.” “And you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.”

**Question # 6** – Is the woman’s having these 10 coins in her possession the same thing as our having all things in Christ? And was she in some sense delinquent for having lost one of the coins?

**Answer:** This is the sense, then, in which the woman has these coins in her own possession. All things are hers now in that she belongs to Christ. She also feels the responsibility for the lost condition of the one coin that is lost of the 10, knowing that the way that she lived her life before she came to faith in Christ may have in some ways contributed to their delinquency.