

# Empire Church of the Brethren

## Sunday Service Sermons

13 October 2024

Searching for Silver Treasures

Have you ever lost anything valuable and searched until you found it?

I go crazy when I lose keys.

Not sure what I would do if I lost something of great value.

Well I did a couple years back, I now know just how valuable Kathy was.

Text: "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?" *Luke 15:8*

What is your most valuable possession?

I think we should say Jesus or the Holy Spirit or God or all three.

What profit is there if a man gains the whole world and forfeits his soul, right?

Spiritual things are the most important.

And most of us are becoming aware of this since the majority of our life is behind us and heaven is in front of us.

We are looking at *Luke 15* which is about lost things.

Actually it is about the value of heaven put in terms of lost things.

Luke tells the stories of a lost sheep, a lost coin, and a lost son.

This three fold parable reveals God's sorrow over lost things, his activity in the interest of lost people, and his joy when the lost are found.

This great parable contains a picture of a needy, suffering work that needs to be rescued and restored to its Shepherd, its Owner, and its Father.

This great parable gives us a portrayal of God's purpose for the church.

It reveals an excellent purpose for each Sunday school class.

It tells us why the choir should lead the congregation in singing the good news.

It gives a board of deacons their reason for being.

All of us need to place ourselves right in the middle of this parable and identify with each section of it.

This parable reveals to us that God is a sheep counter.

When one out of a hundred is lost, God is aware of it and concerned.

This parable also reveals that God is a coin counter.

When one coin is lost, he is concerned.

Do you see God as that in tune with your life and needs?

Christ came into the world in search of lost coins, the coins of human souls.

Before people come to know Jesus Christ, they are lost and away from God like the lost coin was away from the woman who once owned it.

People are lost from themselves and from their higher selves until they find their true identity with God.

People are lost from each other until they become the sons and daughters of God through faith in Christ.

People, by nature, experience alienation and loneliness and, oftentimes, real despair.

The lost coins, the lost souls of this world, are valuable to God.

The woman and the lost coin.

The silver coin had security value to the woman.

It was one-tenth of her possessions.

The silver coin may have great sentimental value to the woman.

In the Middle East, in those days, a headdress with ten silver coins attached often signified that the woman wearing it was married.

It would have value comparable to a wedding ring with ten diamond insets.

Perhaps one of these coins is what the woman in the parable had lost.

Kathy lost the diamond from her wedding ring.

One day she looked at it and the diamond was gone.

We searched everywhere we could think of but never found it.

One thing about a diamond, it is still perfect no matter where it is.

God is concerned to the extent that He sent his Son to rescue people from perishing.

Each person has great value to Father God.

The woman's search for the lost coin.

She lighted a lamp in order to search her house for the lost coin.

Let all of us put ourselves in the midst of this parable and make a personal application.

We are to be the light of the world, shining in a dark place so that those around us can find their way to God through our testimony.

We are to illuminate the way to God and the way of God.

We are to demonstrate the difference that Jesus Christ makes in a person's life.

The woman sought carefully and diligently for the lost coin.

She swept the floor.

Each of us who has experienced the love of God in Jesus Christ needs to have personal concern for those around us who do not yet know him.

The woman was persistent in her search.

Giving up or quitting in this matter of communicating the love of God to others should not be an option for us.

Notice the joy of finding lost treasures.

Consider the joy of the woman when she found the lost coin.

Consider the joy you can experience when you are used by the Holy Spirit to help find and rescue a lost soul.

Consider the joy of the neighbors.

Not only did the woman rejoice, but her neighbors also rejoiced over the recovery of the lost coin.

Everyone rejoices when someone comes to know God's love and mercy.

God experiences his greatest joy when a person is born into his family through the miracle of the new birth as a result of receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Consider the joy of the angels.

Even the angels of God rejoice when someone is saved.

Are the redeemed in heaven able to rejoice at the moment that one is saved?

Most likely since Scripture states: there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

It is possible that this is a reference to the joy of the redeemed when someone makes the decision to become a Christian.

Let us consider the joy of the lost coin that regains its value.

While a coin is lost, it is valueless.

It has value only in the hands of someone who can use it as a medium of exchange.

Have you ever known anyone yet who came to know Jesus Christ as Savior who did not experience great joy as he or she was restored and had the experience that brought them to know God?

From this parable we need to recognize that each person is of supreme value to God.

God is a sheep counter and a coin counter.

We are saved today because God wants us to experience our full potential value to Him.

It happens through faith in Jesus Christ and faithfulness to him.

As we live for him we become more His each day.

And he completes us in our mission to be like Him in word and deed.  
To live is Christ, to die is gain!