

Luke 15: 8-10; “The Parable of the Lost Coin”, Session # 3 – “The Woman Sweeping the House”, Presented by Pastor Paul Rendall on April 21st, 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.”

Review –

a. We have been looking at this Parable which Jesus gave to the scribes and the Pharisees, to teach them that they ought to care for perishing sinners. They ought to have been seeking for the lost, but they were not. The reason that they were not was because they wrongly thought that all Jewish persons were in favor with God, when they tried to keep the ceremonial law, and tried to do good works.

Jesus is saying here that they ought to have known and understood His mission; that He had not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. He had not come to minister to those who thought of themselves as well, spiritually, but rather those who knew themselves to be sin-sick sinners. And in this case – Lost! These men did not want to be seen as sinners who needed repentance, nor did they want to recognize Jesus’ ministry and mission from the Father.

b. So, our conclusion thus far has been, that all in the local church should be helping our Lord in seeking to find 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 even one lost sinner that God intends to save does have value. Even though the image of God is marred in them, yet this is what makes the soul of sinner valuable to God and to her. And it ought to be seen this way by ourselves as well.

c. We have seen what it means for the woman to light a lamp. We are the light of the world, Jesus says, in Matthew 5: 14-16. And our light is found coming to us from Christ Himself, and from His word. Our shining the light of the word, into the darkness of a lost sinner’s mind, is the way that we search to find lost sinners. We bring them the knowledge of salvation through the light that we shine. And then we pray for them, and we tell them to pray for themselves, so that they might be found by Christ Himself and find Him for themselves.

d. We have also seen that the Ten Silver Coins represent lost sinners in the house of Israel in Jesus’ day. But they can also represent lost sinners in the broader house of the world in every generation. Many of these sinners are found in the New Testament “house” of the local church. They are the children of believers or regular attenders at a local church. But there are also many lost silver coins in the broader house of the world, who need to be searched for. Jesus says – “Go and preach the gospel to every creature”, in Mark 16: 16.

e. In our last study we looked at Acts 16, verses 25-34, and we saw that Paul and Silas, who were seeking more broadly, to preach the gospel in the house of the world, they found a lost coin, even in this most unlikely place, in a prison house. The jailor knew that he was lost, for after God brought an earthquake and loosed all the prisoner’s chains, his first thoughts were of committing suicide. But having listened to Paul and Silas praying and singing hymns to God, he thought – Is it possible that I can be saved? And so he changed his mind, and he called for a light, and he asked them – “What must I do to be saved? And they said – “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved, you and your household.”

Explanation of “The Woman” in our Parable: This Woman in our Parable represents any Christian person who would seek to tell sinners around her of their need of the Lord Jesus Christ. But in order to

find them, she must light a lamp, and then she must sweep the room. Where is the lost coin, she wonders? Where is the lost sinner that I care about and value? I will light a lamp to find them. I will sweep the room, and maybe it will turn up.

Question # 1 – What does it mean for the Woman to sweep the house?

Answer: The Woman Sweeping the House shows her love for God’s law and her desire to see a sinner brought to a conviction of their sins, and believe in Jesus Christ. The Woman sweeping the house is the picture of her attempting to find the lost sinner using both the law and the gospel of Christ. She uses the broom of the law to attempt to show the sinner what sin is, and why that person needs to be saved. With the law she will sweep to bring conviction of sin. But by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. It is only by the washing of water with the word of the gospel, that is the only way that the sinner can really be brought out of their lost condition, and find grace and peace and salvation.

Romans 3: 19 & 20 – “Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.” “Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”

Question # 2 – When Paul says here that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, is he speaking only to the Jews, or is he speaking to all men?

Answer: Even though the Jews are in a very particular sense under the law, Moses having received the law of God upon Mt. Sinai, Paul is here speaking about the whole moral law of God, which “all the world” is commanded to obey. In terms of keeping the moral law in the 10 commandments, every mouth is stopped and all the world is guilty before God for not keeping it. Therefore, Paul concludes, that by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. However, by the knowledge of the law it does not appear how we who are sinners can become righteous in the sight of the holy God.

Romans 3: 21-31 – “But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.” “For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.” “Where is boasting then?” “It is excluded.” “By what law?” “Of works?” “No, but by the law of faith.” “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.” “Or is He the God of the Jews only?” “Is He not also the God of the Gentiles?” “Yes, of the Gentiles also, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.” “Do we then make void the law through faith?” “Certainly not!” “On the contrary, we establish the law.”

Question # 3 – What is the righteousness of the God apart from the law, according to verse 22?

Answer: The righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed by God Himself, and it is witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, that Jesus Christ is the One who came to fulfill the law of God, and did fulfill the law of God in keeping all of God’s moral commandments perfectly.

Question # 4 – What did God have to do, through Jesus Christ, to completely fulfill His own moral law, on behalf of sinners, according to verses 24 and 25?

Answer: God the Father had to redeem sinners by Christ’s purchasing them by His blood. And so He set Him forth as a propitiation, so that by His blood, whoever then believes in Him will be justified.

In the House of Interpreter in Pilgrims Progress

I think that this Woman's Sweeping of the House can be best illustrated by my reading you a short passage from Pilgrim's Progress.

It is found in Pilgrim's conversation in the House of Interpreter, on his journey to the Celestial City.

It says – “Then he took him by the hand and led him into a very large parlor, that was full of dust, because never swept; the which after he had reviewed it a little while, the Interpreter called for a man to sweep.” “Now, when he began to sweep, the dust began so abundantly to fly about that Christ had almost therewith been choked.” “Then said the Interpreter to a damsel that stood by, ‘Bring hither water, and sprinkle the room;’ the which when she had done, it was swept and cleansed with pleasure.”

“Then said Christian, ‘What means this?’” “The Interpreter answered, ‘This parlor is the heart of a man that was never sanctified by the sweet grace of the gospel.’” “The dust is his original sin, and inward corruptions that have defiled the whole man.” “He that began to sweep at first is the law; but she that brought water, and did sprinkle it, is the Gospel.” “Now, whereas thou sawest that, as soon as the first began to sweep, the dust did so fly about that the room could not by him be cleansed, but that thou wast almost choked therewith; this is to show thee, that the law, instead of cleansing the heart (by its working) from sin, doth revive, put strength into, and increase it in the soul, even as it doth discover and forbid it, for it doth not give power to subdue.”

“Again, as thou sawest the damsel sprinkle the room with water, upon which it was cleansed with pleasure; this is to show thee, that when the Gospel comes, in the sweet and gracious influences thereof, to the heart, then, I say, even as thou sawest the damsel lay the dust by sprinkling the floor with water, so is sin vanquished and subdued, and the soul made clean through the faith of it, and consequently, fit for the King of Glory to inhabit.”

This goes along well with our Parable that we are studying. I think that it helps explain our Parable very well.

Question # 5 – What does Interpreter say that the parlor represents in this picture?

Answer: Bunyan in his explanation of what was said by Interpreter says that the parlor is the heart of a man that was never sanctified by the sweet grace of the gospel.

Question # 6 – Is it possible for a person, either a young person or an older person, to go to church for years and appear to be a Christian, and yet still not be sanctified by believing in the sweet grace of the gospel?

Answer: It is possible for a person, either a young person or an older person, to go to church for years, and appear to be a Christian, and yet still not be sanctified by believing in the sweet grace of the gospel.

Question # 7 – Why would this be, according to the verses that we have studied concerning the law of God?

Answer: Well, it may be for a number of reasons that may not at all be apparent to either that person or others who care very much for their soul. But, we can say this: It may be that their parents or others have placed too much confidence in their ability to keep the law or do what is right on their own. It may be that their expectations of them have been very great in this regard. It could simply be that they have not explained the whole concept of grace to them in a way that they were able to receive it. They still thought that they were saved by their own doing certain things which would please either God or their parents. And finally, after some years, they gave up and walked away from their profession of faith.

Question # 8 – What does the Interpreter say that the dust represents in this picture?

Answer: The dust is the person's original sin in Bunyan's explanation, and the inward corruptions that have defiled the whole person's heart.

Question # 9 – What happens to the dust when the law is preached?

Answer: When the law is preached or shared with that person, the dust flies everywhere and they are almost choked by the sweeping.

Question # 10 – What happens when the woman brings the water and sprinkles it on the dust?

Answer: When water is brought, the water of the Gospel of Christ, and the Woman sprinkles it on the floor of the heart, then it was swept and cleansed with pleasure.

Question # 11 – How does this relate to why the Woman might have lost the coin in the first place?

Answer: This is the explanation, I believe, of how the Woman lost the coin in the first place. It was simply that coin that she lost fell out of her hand and was lost in the darkness, as a result of the woman's not explaining the sweet grace of the Gospel of Christ well enough to those she loved; to those who she was trying to win and see become faithful members, and remain in the local church as believers who would grow up to maturity. Perhaps the reason for losing the coin was not sharing the sweetness of the love of Christ to her loved ones and others. It needed to be conveyed to them better, and so the coin slipped out of her grasp and rolled away. Well, if this is the case, I believe that there is still good news for the woman who has lost her coin.

Because it says here that she sought carefully until she found it!