

Luke 15: 8-10; “The Parable of the Lost Coin”, Session # 5 – “How the Coin Was Found”, Presented by Pastor Paul Rendall on May 12th, 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.

We looked at the misconception which some have of the Fatherhood of God; thinking that all people are God’s people because He created them. It is true that God is the Father of all mankind in the sense that He created them. But every unsaved person needs to understand that God does not accept people as they are in their sins. He can only accept them and become their spiritual Father through Christ, and the grace that He alone can bring and give them. The Father then adopts them into His spiritual family.

We also saw that although all souls belong to God, that nevertheless there is a very real sense that the Devil is the father of all the unbelieving people in this world.

We looked at John 8: 38-45 at how Christ interacted with the Jews who had said that they believed in Him. And yet they wanted to kill Him. They are the Devil’s children, not that they are of his substance, but that they his children by imitation and example.

These Jews 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 He told them that they did not stand in the truth. They thought that their father was Abraham. And yet, 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.

I also spoke to you about how many people who have gone to church for years, and who are not yet saved, perhaps they do not understand that the true Christian’s boast is in the Lord.

I asked the question – Is the woman’s having these 10 coins in her possession the same thing as our having all things in Christ? The answer that I gave you was that, yes, this is indeed the sense in which the woman has these coins in her own possession. All things are indeed hers, now, now that she belongs to Christ. We looked at 1st 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.”

And I further asked – And did the woman in some sense feel delinquent for having lost one of the silver coins?

The answer that I gave you was that in some sense she also does feel some responsibility for the lost condition of the one coin that she lost, of the 10. She knows that the way that she lived her life before she came to faith in Christ may have in some ways contributed to their delinquency. And perhaps also, the way that she communicated the gospel to them may have kept that person she wanted to win to Christ from actually coming to Him.

How then does the woman in our Parable go about to try to find the silver coin which she lost?

She lights a lamp, she sweeps the house, and finally she searches carefully for it until she finds it. It is this last phrase that we will think about more carefully at this time. It is perhaps true that a child or a young person or anyone else who attend regularly the services of the local church, may not really have understood the gospel. After all, the truth is something which must be revealed to them by the Holy Spirit.

1. It is possible that our children and others who regularly attend church do not know what to do to be saved.

Question # 1 – What about children who have grown up in the church who have heard the gospel preached to them many times? How should we instruct them to pray? What verses should we share with them?

Romans 10: 1-13 – “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.” “For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.” “For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.” “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.” “For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, ‘The man who does those things shall live by them.’ “But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, ‘Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).” “But what does it say?” “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” “For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” “For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on the Him will not be put to shame.’ “For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.” “For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Question # 2 – Should we pray to God for the salvation of our children and others who we want to be saved? Should we pray in the way that Paul did here in these verses?

Answer: Yes, we should. This was Paul’s great desire, for the salvation of Israel, the ethnic Jews. However, we ought to greatly desire the salvation of other people around us who are either Jews or Gentiles.

Question # 3 – Is it possible for our children and others to have a zeal for God, and yet that zeal not be according to knowledge, and they not know the Lord?

Answer: Yes, it is entirely possible. For the apostle Paul, before he was saved, he was just like this.

Question # 4 – If our children and others are ignorant of God’s righteousness and seeking to establish their own righteousness, and have not submitted to the righteousness of God, then what should we tell them by way of explanation, concerning Christ?

Answer: That Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. (verse 4)

2. It is possible that we ourselves do not know how to communicate the truth of the gospel to lost people.

Question # 5 – How does the righteousness of faith speak? Don’t Do What? (verses 6 & 7)

Answer: They should not to attempt to do some great thing to find, or receive Christ. Like trying to go to heaven to bring Christ down from above, or descending into the abyss to bring Christ up from the dead. (vs. 6 & 7)

Question # 6 – What does the righteousness of faith say? (verse 8)

Answer: It says – Understand that the word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart, when you simply believe the gospel. (vs. 8)

Question # 7 – What should they confess with their mouth? (verse 9a)

Answer: They should confess with their mouth what Jesus has already done, living a perfect life, fulfilling the Law, dying for their sins, and rising again on the 3rd day.

Question # 8 – What should they believe in their heart? (verse 9b & 10)

Answer: They should believe with their heart that God has raised Christ from the dead. And so, He can also raise them from their death in trespasses and sins, make them alive spiritually by causing them to be born again.