

**Luke 15: 8-10; “The Parable of the Lost Coin”, Session # 8 – “The Angels Rejoice With Us”, Presented by Pastor Paul Rendall on June 23<sup>rd</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.”

I would like to end our study of the Parable of the Lost Coin by trying to open up and explain this last sentence of what Jesus spoke – “Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” The word “likewise” has reference to the statement of the woman – “Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!” She had called her friends and neighbors together and told them to rejoice that she had found the coin that she had lost. The friends and neighbors, according to the way that I have explained it to you, are those persons in the same local church in which the lost coin was lost and found, and all other Christians who would hear of the conversion of this lost person and rejoice with her.

But Jesus makes a special point about our thinking about the joy which also exists (likewise exists) in the presence of the angels when they also hear about the finding of the lost coin; that is, the finding of the lost sinner. And so, what I would like to do is to open up this truth by attempting to shine some Biblical light on what it is that the angels are rejoicing in, in regard to God Himself and in regard to the salvation of sinful men.

**1<sup>st</sup> of all – Angels long to look into things which God has purposed to do, because they love God Himself and they desire to look into all that He has done and is doing in regard to saving sinners.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 10-12** – “Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.” “To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven – things which angels desire to look into.”

**Question # 1** – Concerning the grace that would come to us, did the prophets who prophesied of Christ’s coming, and what He would do to accomplish our salvation, did they have to search and inquire carefully about these things to understand them better?

**Answer:** Yes they did. They didn’t know the exact timing of Christ’s coming into the world. And they also desired to understand in more depth, the things which had been revealed to them, that they wrote down, so that we, when we would read them, would hopefully understand them as well. They came to realize that their responsibility was to minister the word in such a way that we who read these things later on, in the Bible, might benefit from being able to understand the gospel better because they searched to know more.

**Question # 2** – What was it specifically which was the subject matter that the Spirit of God was indicating? (verse 11)

**Answer:** The Spirit of God was testifying beforehand of the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. (a good example of this is found in Isaiah chapter 52: 13-15 and 53: 1-12)

**Question # 3** – What are the things which angels desire to look into, according to the context here?

**Answer:** They are the things of Christ and His great redemption, and the salvation of sinners.

The words in the Greek are Επιθυμουνσιν Παρακνψαι – The angels long, or desire, to look into.

**Andrew Fuller says on this verse:** It is generally supposed, I believe, that the phrase “look into” alludes to the cherubim which were placed bending over the mercy seat, and looking as it were with intensesness at it. Thus Mary stooped, and looked into the sepulcher, in hope of discovering her Lord; and thus believers are described as looking into the perfect law of liberty, or the gospel of Christ.”

**Thomas Manton has a sermon on this verse** in his Works, Vol. 18, P. 202-215.

**He lists 6 things that the angels long to look into.**

1. The Person of the Redeemer.

The Person of the Redeemer, the most glorious object that can be looked upon, or taken into the thoughts of any creature. The view of this is now our comfort, and will be our happiness to all eternity. John 17: 24 – “Father, I will that they whom thou hast given me be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory which thou hast given me.” When we are in heaven, on the other side of the world, that will be our work and our happiness; but it must not be wholly omitted here. So the angels delight in the Person of the Redeemer; it is their rejoicing to look upon Christ, in whom the glory of God shineth forth more admirably than in any other of His works. Yea, I shall go one strain higher; God Himself delighteth in looking upon Christ.

**Proverbs 8, verses 30 & 31** – “Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, rejoicing in His inhabited world, and my delight was with the sons of men.”

(We can say if God delights in looking upon Christ, then it will only follow that the angels also delight in everything related to our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the King of Angels.)

2. The way of redemption

3. The grace that should come to us.

4. The mission of the Spirit (sent down from heaven to help both angels and men to understand these things of Christ and mission better.)

5. The gracious providences of God in leading the church on to their eternal happiness.

6. The final glorious estate of the saints.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – The Angels have joy over all that God creates, and so they have a very great joy in the repentance of one sinner.**

**Job 38: 4-7** – “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?” “Tell Me, if you have understanding.” “Who determined its measurements?” “Surely you know!” “Or who stretched

the line upon it?” “To what were its foundations fastened?” “Or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”

**Question # 4** – Who are the morning stars and the sons of God referring to? And why would they be singing together and shouting for joy?

**Answer:** The morning stars and the sons of God are referring to the angels. They were created, in the beginning, when the Lord made the heavens and the earth. They sang together and shouted for joy at all that God made.

**C.H. Spurgeon says on Luke 15: 10** – “Why do angels sing over penitent sinners? In the first place, I think it is because they remember the days of creation. You know, when God made this world, and fixed the beams of the heavens in sockets of light, the morning stars sang together, and the sons of God shouted for joy; as they saw star after star flying abroad like sparks from the great anvil of Omnipotence, they began to sing; and every time they saw a new creature made upon this little earth, they praised afresh. When first they saw light they clapped their hands, and said, “Great is Jehovah; for he said ‘Light be!’ and light was.” And when they saw sun and moon, and stars, again they clapped their hands, and they said, “He hath made great lights; for his mercy endures for ever. The sun to rule the day; for his mercy endures for ever. The moon to rule the night; for his mercy endures for ever.” And over everything he made, they chanted evermore that sweet song, “Creator, thou art to be magnified; for thy mercy endures for ever.” Now, when they see a sinner returning, they see the creation over again; for repentance is a new creation. No man ever repents until God makes in him a new heart and a right spirit. I do not know that ever since the day when God made the world, with the exception of new hearts, the angels have seen God make anything else. He may, if he hath so pleased, have made fresh worlds since that time. But perhaps the only instance of new creation they have ever seen since the first day, is the creation of a new heart and a right spirit within the breast of a poor penitent sinner. Therefore do they sing, because creation cometh over again.”

**Hebrews 1: 13 & 14** – “But to which of the angels has He ever said: Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool?” “Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”

**Question # 5** – What kind of ministry do the angels have in relation to those who will inherit salvation?

**Answer:** The angels are responsible under our God and our Christ to watch over and protect God’s children both before and after they are saved, and when they die to bring them to heaven.

**Genesis 19: 12-18** – “Then the men said to Lot, Have you anyone else here? Son-in-law, your sons, your daughters, and whomever you have in the city—take them out of this place! For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it. So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city! But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking. When the morning dawned, the angels urged Lot to hurry, saying, Arise, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be consumed in the punishment of the city. And while he lingered, the men took hold of his hand, his wife’s hand, and the hands of his two daughters, the LORD being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city. So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he

said, Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed. Then Lot said to them, Please, no, my lords! Indeed now, your servant has found favor in your sight, and you have increased your mercy which you have shown me by saving my life; but I cannot escape to the mountains, lest some evil overtake me and I die. See now, this city is near enough to flee to, and it is a little one; please let me escape there (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live. And he said to him, See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken. Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar. The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar. Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD. Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace. And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt.”

**Question # 6** – Do you think that the angel who was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah had a real concern for the salvation of Lot, his wife, his daughters and even his son-in-laws? How do we know this?

**Answer:** Yes, his concern for them all was very real. He asked about Lot’s relatives, his sons-in-law, his daughters, and whomever else he had in the city, and told him to tell them to leave immediately, as he was going to destroy the city. Lot proved that he was a true believer by listening to the angel’s words and acting upon them. He went and talked to his sons-in-law about their leaving. He warned them that the Lord was going to destroy the city. But thought that he was jesting. When morning dawned the angel urged Lot to quickly leave. But Lot lingered, and so the angel took his hand, his wife’s hand, and his daughters hands, and even brought them outside the city and set them outside the city. Their leaving the city would an indication of their willingness to repent of their own sins. And so Lot, his wife and his daughters left. But Lot’s wife’s love of the world and things of the world caused her to turn back and look when the city was being destroyed. The angel had specifically told them not to look back. He said – Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. She looked back in verse 26, and she was turned to a pillar of salt.

**Genesis 32: 1 & 2** – “So Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him.” “When Jacob saw them, he said “This is God’s camp.” “And he called the name of that place Mahanaim.”

**Question # 7** – Why do you think that God sent 2 companies of angels to be with Jacob and his families?

**Answer:** Because Jacob had two families, the children of which would eventually, over time, become the 12 tribes of Israel. And there were many among those families whom the Lord would eventually save from their sins. And thus, it was important that their lives be guarded from possible attack from Esau and his men on that day when they met him. The angels would rejoice over the repentance of Joseph’s brothers years later, when they were brought to repentance over their sin against Joseph in throwing him into the pit and selling him to the Ishmaelite traders for 20 pieces of silver. They faithfully watched over Joseph in all the time that he was in Egypt, and the brothers during all the time of their continuing in their sins until they repented of them in

Joseph's presence after he revealed himself to them. When they repented, they no doubt rejoiced over their repentance.

True repentance means certain salvation for the one who does repent, from the moment that they first believe that they are a sinner who needs Christ, and they embrace what he has done for them in His righteous life and His sacrificial death. The angels see this and rejoice. They could not rejoice if they thought that sometime later that that person would apostatize and leave the faith. But knowing that true repentance never needs to be repented of, the angels rejoice when they hear of God's work in the regeneration and repentance of even one sinner.

**Another quote from Spurgeon:**

Now, why do they not save their joy till that sinner dies and goes to heaven? Why do they rejoice over him when he repents? My Arminian friend, I think, ought to go to heaven, to set them right upon this matter. According to his theory, it must be very wrong of them, because they rejoice prematurely. According to the Arminian doctrine a man may repent, and yet he may be lost, he may have grace to repent and believe, and yet he may fall from grace and be a castaway. Now, angels, don't be too fast. Perhaps you may have to repent of this one day, if the Arminian doctrine be true, I would advise you to save your song for greater joys. Why, angels, perhaps the men that you are singing over to-day, you will have to mourn over to-morrow. I am quite sure that Arminius never taught his doctrine in heaven. I do not know whether he is there — I hope he is, but he is no longer an Arminian; but if he ever taught his doctrine there, he would be put out. The reason why angels rejoice is because they know that when a sinner repents, he is absolutely saved; or else they would rejoice prematurely, and would have good cause for retracting their merriment on some future occasion. But the angels know what Christ meant when he said, "I give unto my sheep eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any pluck them out of my hand;" and therefore they rejoice over repenting sinners, because they know they are saved."