



WEEKLY STUDY

God Loves Lost Things - Week Two

This is the second week of Advent. During Advent, we anticipate the arrival of the Son of God in a manger in Bethlehem. The Christ child came to us as God's way of seeking and saving the lost. This week, we look at another parable told by Jesus that helps us understand the Kingdom of God and His heart for us. God doesn't delight in our lost-ness but God sure shines when it comes to seeking and finding! This week, may you catch a glimpse of the lengths to which God has gone to find you when you wander off.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 15.8-10 (ESV)

“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

- This is the second of three parables that Jesus shared in Luke 15. His parables are intended to reveal something about the Kingdom of God. The original audience would have had an advantage over us in that they lived in the context of the story. They knew what the home looked like, and what it would mean for a woman in her home alone to lose a coin. Most likely, these 10 coins were all of the savings this woman could muster. This was all she had. A shepherd with 100 sheep was comparably well-off, but this woman had a meager existence. Regardless of its comparable value, it was 1/10th of all that she had. If Jesus was telling the parable in your context, what would the

woman's home look like? What might be the lost thing of great value? What, if lost, would represent 1/10th of all you own?

- **Prayer Prompt:** *Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, ² and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. ³ And he said, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. ⁴ For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."* (Luke 21.1-4 ESV)
- *God, you are the great Provider of all that I have. Thank you for a glimpse of your heart for me—you have and would pursue me. You would light up a dark room to find me. Amen.*

TUESDAY: LUKE 15.8-10 (ESV)

- The woman brought out her resources in order to find the lost coin. Houses at the time probably had no windows, or very small ones that provided very little light. So she brought out the lamp and was willing to use up precious oil in order to light up the room. She also brought out her broom to sweep every corner of the house. Her hope was to see the coin in the light, or hear it clinking around as she swept. Eyes open, ears attentive. She was serious about this search! From what you know or have experienced of God, what "resources" has He used to search after you (or other lost things)?

- **Prayer Prompt:** *I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy.* (Ezekiel 34.16 NIV)
- *Jesus, you are all the evidence I need to know that God would do anything to find me and bring me home. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: LUKE 15.8-10 (ESV)

- Followers of Jesus aim to give 1/10th of their income towards the mission of the church. And [2 Corinthians 9.6-9](#) says, God loves a cheerful giver. We are called to "lose" a tenth of what we have and to celebrate because God has provided for us. In a very real sense, we give so that lost things will know that God is seeking after them. In the space below, make a list of things you give away intentionally, and make another list of lost things that have been found.

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- **Prayer Prompt: *Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. (Psalm 119.105)***
 - *God, You have sought after me and found me. You celebrate my recovery, and now it is my joy to be a part of your search party! Amen.*

THURSDAY: LUKE 15.8-10 (ESV)

- This passage reveals something about the heart of God towards us. No other god or religion is so personal and relentless. God stoops so low to come to us that He put on flesh and sought us out. It's almost too much for us to fathom. When does God feel the most present to you? Imagine yourself reaching out to God as God reaches out to you. How does it feel to know that God knows you personally?
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- **Prayer Prompt: “No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light. ¹⁷For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open.” (Luke 8.16-17)**
- *Jesus, shine your light on me today. Shine your light through me today. Amen.*

FRIDAY: LUKE 15.8-10 (ESV)

- In [Matthew 2.11](#), we read about the visit of the Magi to the newborn Jesus. They brought gifts that for most of us would be quite sacrificial. As Jacob shared in the message, when we find our true treasure, we want to give our earthly treasure away. For the woman in Luke 15, the recovery of the coin was not about its monetary value. We know this because she threw a party to celebrate. A party would have cost at least a portion of the coin's worth. She was giving it away anyway! Describe a time when you gave something away and were left feeling like a million bucks.
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- **Prayer Prompt: For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open. (Mark 4.22)**
 - *God, you are extravagant in your love for me. Help me to sit in that gift and receive it so I can give it away to others! Amen.*

SATURDAY: LUKE 15.8-10 (ESV)

- [Deuteronomy 14.2](#) says that God's people are His chosen treasure. You are God's chosen treasure. That's how you can know that he would stop everything to find you, and celebrate your recovery. Are there things that prevent you from accepting this status as God's treasure? Help yourself by helping others– make a list of people you want to inform or remind that they are God's treasured possessions.
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- **Prayer Prompt: You are a people holy to the LORD your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the LORD has chosen you to be his treasured possession. (Deuteronomy 14.2)**
- *God, I am yours and you are mine. You are a holy God who calls me to be a part of your holy people. I choose you again and again and again. Amen.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Luke 15.8-10.

Some have wondered if the 10 coins that the woman possessed represent her dowry or a wedding present she had received years before. There is some evidence of the practice of these coins, given at the time of marriage, being worn in a headdress. In a sense, a woman would wear signs of her “value” on her head. So to lose a sign of that value would be devastating.

Jacob shared three short examples of things that have been lost in his family. Consider what things of value have been lost in your life.

- What have you lost (or thought you had lost) of great value?
- What did you do when you found that it was missing?
- Did you find it? Replace it? If so, how did you celebrate?
- What does it mean that God looks for you when you get lost?