

The Value of a Soul #17

The Lost Coin

The parable of the lost coin in Luke 15:8-10 illustrates the value of a soul.

It is not difficult to lose a coin. I am sure we have all lost many over the years. Look in the back of an old sofa, and you may find several coins lodged in the upholstery.

We probably did not think too much about it when we misplaced the odd coin. Who is going to miss a cent, a nickel, a dime, or even a quarter? Would you lose sleep over a dime? Would you ransack the house for a quarter? So what's all the fuss about? Why is the woman of Luke 15:8 so bothered about losing a mere coin?

It is because those were the days before paper money. Some coins had a very high value indeed. When my grandfather was a young man, his entire week's wages consisted of a single coin - a gold sovereign (£1). This was about a quarter of an ounce of gold. It would be worth about \$150 in today's currency. If you lost that one coin, you'd have worked all week for nothing.

The particular coin that this woman lost was a silver drachma. It had a buying power of about \$100 in today's money. It was a significant loss. Would you sweep the carpet for \$100? Even though she had other coins it was valuable enough to warrant an exhaustive search and to be the cause of great rejoicing when found. Jesus said, "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Lk. 15:10).

God and the angels long to rejoice over the salvation of a soul. We would certainly put forth great effort to retrieve a valuable lost coin. Are we prepared to expend the necessary effort to save an infinitely more precious lost soul so that there may be rejoicing both on earth and in heaven?