



Week 2 // Ten Coins

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Big Idea from the Message

Rather than being content with those currently in a relationship with Christ, we continue to seek out those who are still 'lost.' Otherwise God's work (and our love) is not 'complete'.

Connect

1. Have you ever been lost? Share stories (humorous or serious). Focus especially on what you were thinking and feeling during the process of being lost.
2. What's your impression: Do people who are far from God like to be referred to as 'lost'? Why or why not? Why do you think Jesus compassionately refers to such people as being 'lost'?

Digging Deeper

Read Luke 15:8-10 before moving on

3. What is your initial reaction to the Parable of the Ten Coins? Why do you think losing a coin and finding it again is such a big deal? What surprises you about the woman's approach and attitude to the situation?
4. This parable is told in response to what specific context? See the opening verses of Luke 15 for the answer. Have you ever found yourself 'muttering' or 'grumbling' over the way that a blatantly guilty person was forgiven and welcomed into the Christian community? Why do you think that reaction is not uncommon? What does Jesus have to say about this?

5. In this series we dig into the Biblical significance of the number 'ten' (in commemoration of our tenth year as 'ACTS'). What other occurrences of the number 'ten' (either Old or New Testament) can you think of? What does this number typically symbolize in Bible language?
6. One source explains: "Ten is Divine order, completed cycle, measure, or group (congregation) whether for good or evil, blessing or judgment. A tenth part represents the whole in a tithe. Thus, ten represents a complete congregation, body, or kingdom, whether good or evil" (GraceInTorah.net). With one coin missing, the set is not complete! In what way is our congregation not 'complete', when we stop seeking those who are lost? What part are you playing in remedying this situation? What help or resources do you need?

Live It Out

7. Henri Nouwen describes the joy that belongs to those who receive back that which had been lost. He writes: "Celebration belongs to God's Kingdom. God not only offers forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing, but wants to lift up these gifts as a source of joy for all who experience them... God does not want to keep his joy to himself. He wants everyone to share in it. God's joy is the joy of his angels and his saints, it is the joy of all who belong to the Kingdom" (The Return of the Prodigal Son).
 - Describe a time when you experienced pure joy in witnessing someone moving from 'lost' to 'found.' This may be the story of someone else, or it may be your own story!
 - What joy might God have in store for your community, as He sends you to seek that which is lost? What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this Parable today?

Lifting it up

*How great are my privileges in Christ Jesus!
 Without him I stand far off, a stranger, an outcast;
 in him I draw near and touch his kingly scepter.
 Without him I dare not lift up my guilty eyes;
 in him I gaze upon my Father-God and Friend.
 Without him I hide my lips in trembling shame;
 in him I open my mouth in petition and praise.
 Without him darkness spreads its horrors in front;
 in him an eternity of glory is my boundless horizon.
 Praise be to thee for grace,
 and for the unspeakable gift of Jesus.*

Valley of Vision: A Book of Puritan Prayers