

The Search for the Precious — Week 2

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Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:8-10).

This scripture is Jesus' response to hearing the Pharisees grumble about Him keeping company with tax collectors and sinners. Jesus was willing to lose His reputation so He could love the unlovable and the outcasts. Jesus was willing to die on the cross for sinners. The compassion of Jesus shows up in this parable and puts our finger on the pulse-beat of His care for those most in need of His grace and mercy.

Why did this precious woman search so diligently for the lost coin?

I believe that she expected to find it. She swept on the bumpy, uneven, clay floor where it would have been hard to find a coin. This woman in the scripture searched diligently because she knew that the coin had been lost in her own home.

Not too long ago, I lost a red onyx stone out of my ring. It was not extremely valuable; nonetheless, I liked the ring. I found it missing and I returned to Sam's Club because it was the last place I had been with the ring intact. I had expectations that the stone could be there. The odds were against me; yet, I had expectation. I rushed into the store and scanned the vast concrete floor. I looked on the floor where I had stood in the register line and there was the red onyx stone!

For years my family prayed for my aunt who had disappeared for she was immersed in addictive behavior. During the years she was missing, we continued to pray despite no communication.

It was our belief that she could return to her home and find peace with God. God answered our prayers. She returned. Being very ill after years of abuse to her body and mind, she needed the love and support of her family.

In the parable in Luke 15, I see a powerful image of Jesus as a janitor. Ironically, many people in ministry have started their ministry in the church bathroom with a scrub brush.

As the woman who searched for the coin, Jesus' ministry is replete with sweeping operations. Jesus can have some great conversations with janitors. He understands the importance of saving the sweeping until the last of the cleaning chores. When you save the sweeping for the last, you can then go behind and pick up the overlooked, the remains, and the fallen items.

Jesus searches for those that feel like they have been rejected. He pays special attention to those who have neglected talents and potential. He searches diligently for the lost, the broken, and the hidden. He is ready to prepare a place of rejoicing for those when they are found.

Let us join with Jesus in His mission to find those who are lost and pour on His healing mercy and love.