

LOOKING FOR THAT WHICH IS LOST

*8 “Or what woman, if she owns ten silver coins and loses one of them, won't light a lamp and sweep the house, searching her home carefully until she finds it? 9 When she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Celebrate with me because I've found my lost coin.’ 10 In the same way, I tell you, joy breaks out in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who changes both heart and life.”*

How many of you have had this happen to you just as you are leaving your house? You are all ready to go but you can't find your car keys and you are not sure where you laid them last?

If you are like me you are calm at first and you go to the most likely places your keys would be.

When that fails you get a little more anxious because you need to get going. You go over where you have been and then you try new places that they might be.

By now you are in a mild panic and you go on a no holds barred search. You engage others in the household. Where did you last see my keys? No one can help, you are on your own, and then under that piece of paper at the end of the table you see something shiny and as you remove the paper, there lie your keys.

What relief! What joy! What a celebration! As you rush out of the house able at last to get to your destination!

Your keys are something of great value that you must have to get on with your life. When they are missing you stop everything to search for them and when you find them you celebrate!

Jesus says the woman only has ten silver coins. They are not very valuable to most people but she stops everything to find the one that is missing. This is an indicator that she is not rich but part of the class of the working poor.

She has a home so she is not destitute but it is a small home that is windowless so she lights the lamp to give her the light to see where something as small as a coin might be.

She uses the broom because the house was poorly lit and it is difficult to see the coin. The broom would cause the coin to make noise, and then it could be heard and be found.

The silver coins were "drachma," coins whose value varied over time. During the time of Jesus they were worth the equivalent of a denarius, about a day's wages for the common laborer or 17.20.

There are number of reasons for the woman's meticulous search.

First, she was poor and the coin possibly represented a sizeable amount of the family savings. Another possibility is that, not only were the coins her savings, but they were also her dowry.

The drachmas as part of a "woman's head-dress adorned with the coins which were part of her dowry, and it was so valued by the woman she would not have take it off , even when she was sleeping".

Many women in that village wear their coins as necklaces that added to the beauty of their dress and appearance the loss of one of the coins would destroy the beauty of the necklace.

For whatever reason the saving the silver coin, the loss of one in only ten is significant, and the emotional and decorative value of the coin added to the importance of finding it.

*9 When she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Celebrate with me because I've found my lost coin.'* The friends and neighbors she calls together are female a woman would not have the audacity to invite men to her home. It is also clear, from the fact that she calls others to rejoice with her, that the coin is more important to her now than before it was lost.

*10 In the same way, I tell you, joy breaks out in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who changes both heart and life."*

God so loves us that he will search for us and search for us seeking to bring us to Himself and He has incredible joy when we respond.

Jesus,

Thank you for loving me so much you died for me and you never stop loving me no matter what I do. Give me the heart to love you back with all my heart. Amen.