

Lost But Found In The House



Luke 15:8-10

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LOST BUT FOUND IN THE HOUSE PART 1

LUKE 15:8-10

INTRODUCTION

THE 15TH CHAPTER OF LUKE IS COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS THE "LOST AND FOUND CHAPTER OF THE BIBLE," BASICALLY BECAUSE FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END OF CHAPTER 15, THE WRITER DEALS WITH SOMETHING THAT IS LOST!

CONTRARY TO POPULAR OPINION, THE 15TH CHAPTER OF LUKE DOES NOT CONSIST OF THREE SEPARATE PARABLES, BUT RATHER IT IS ONE PARABLE WITH 3 PARTS.

NOW, IN VERSE 3, LUKE SAYS: "*AND HE SPAKE UNTO THEM THIS PARABLE, (NOT THESE PARABLES).*"

JUST ONE WORD TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT OR USED OUT OF PLACE, CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN UNDERSTANDING THE "*TRUTH OF A MATTER!*"

HAVE YOU EVER HAD "ONE WORD" OF WHAT YOU SAID TWISTED, TURNED AND TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT? AND THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW SOMEBODY IS UPSET AT YOU, ALL BECAUSE SOMEBODY TOOK ONE WORD OF WHAT YOU SAID, TWISTED IT, TURNED IT AND USED IT OUT OF CONTEXT.

IMAGINE, IF YOU WILL, IF ONE WORD OF GOD'S WORD WOULD HAVE BEEN TWISTED, TURNED OR OMITTED IN CREATION.

1. IF HE HAD SAID, "*LET IT BE*" INSTEAD OF "*LET THERE BE.*" THE WHOLE WORLD WOULD HAVE BEEN LEFT IN UTTER DARKNESS AND CHAOS.

2. WELL NOW, HAD JESUS SAID: “*IS IT FINISHED?*” INSTEAD OF “*IT IS FINISHED.*” THE REDEMPTION OF MANKIND WOULD STILL BE IN QUESTION.

JUST ONE WORD CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD TO UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH OF A MATTER.

AND SO, LUKE SAYS: “... *HE SPAKE UNTO THEM “THIS” PARABLE.*” ONE PARABLE WITH THREE DIFFERENT PARTS!

1. THE 1ST PART OF *THIS PARABLE* DEALS WITH A “LOST SHEEP.” LOST BECAUSE IT WILLINGLY LEFT THE FOLD AND THE FLOCK OF THE SHEPARD’S HOUSE.
2. THE 2ND PART OF *THIS PARABLE* DEALS WITH A “LOST COIN.” LOST, THOUGH IT REMAINED IN THE HOUSE.
3. THE 3RD PART DEALS WITH A COMBINATION OF THE TWO BECAUSE NOT ONLY IS THERE “ONE LOST SON” COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE *PRODIGAL SON*, BUT THERE ARE “TWO LOST SONS.” ONE, LOST BECAUSE HE *LEFT* THE FATHER’S HOUSE, AND THE OTHER LOST, BECAUSE HE *LEFT* THE FATHER’S HEART.

FOR YOU SEE I’VE DISCOVERED THAT ONE CAN BECOME LOST, NOT ONLY BY MOVEMENT OF THEIR FEET, BUT ALSO BY MOVEMENT OF THEIR AFFECTIONS.

YOUR BODY CAN BE OVER HERE, BUT YOUR MIND CAN BE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN!

1. YES, I’VE KNOWN FOLK WHO HAVE LOST THE AFFECTIONS OF THEIR FIRST HOUSE WHEN THEY STPENT MORE TIME AND ATTENTION AT THEIR SECOND HOUSE.

DANIEL WEBSTER, IN HIS BOOK OF WORDS DEFINES "LOST" AS: HIDDEN, UNABLE TO FIND, NO LONGER VISIBLE, OUT OF REACH.

- 1. WHEN YOU LOSE SOMETHING, IT IS WHERE IT IS NOT SUPPOSE TO BE.**
- 2. WHEN YOU LOSE SOMETHING, YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS, OR HOW IT GOT THERE.**
- 3. WHEN YOU LOSE DIRECTION, YOU HAVE NO MEANING AND NO PURPOSE;**
- 4. WHEN YOU LOSE SOMETHING, YOU BECOME DISCOURAGED AND HAVE NO JOY;**
- 5. WHEN YOU LOSE SOMETHING, YOU BECOME DEFENSELESS, AND YOU ARE VULNERABLE AND HELPLESS;**
- 6. WHEN YOU LOSE SOMETHING, YOU BECOME DISCONNECTED, AND YOU ARE LONELY AND TIRED;**
- 7. WHEN YOU LOSE SOMETHING, YOU BECOME DEVASTATED, AND YOU ARE OVERWHELMED AND DESOLATE;**
- 8. WHEN YOU LOSE SOMETHING, YOU BECOME DEPRESSED AND SAD.**

BUT, THESE DEFINITIONS DO NOT APPLY TO GOD, BECAUSE NOTHING IS HIDDEN OR INVISIBLE FROM THE LORD.

THERE IS NOTHING OUT OF HIS REACH THAT HE CAN NOT FIND, WHICH SUGGESTS TO ME THAT: GOD'S CAPACITY FOR FINDING US IS GREATER THAN OUR CAPACITY FOR GETTING LOST!

- 1. THERE'S NO PLACE YOU CAN GO TO ESCAPE HIS ALL SEEING EYE.**

2. **THERE'S NO DEPTH YOU CAN SINK THAT HE CAN'T REACH YOU.**
3. **THERE'S NO COVER, NO CAVE, NO CAMOUFLAGE THAT CAN CONCEAL YOU FROM HIS PRESENCE.**

DAVID SAID: "IF I ASCEND INTO HEAVEN, THOU ART THERE, IF I MAKE MY BED IN HELL, BEHOLD O, LORD, THOU ART THERE.

"JOB DECLARED: "THERE IS NOTHING HIDDEN FROM THE ALMIGHTY."

THAT'S WHY!!! EVERY THING THAT IS LOST IN THIS CHAPTER: THE LOST SHEEP, THE LOST COIN, THE LOST SONS, ALL ARE EVENTUALLY FOUND. BECAUSE GOD'S CAPACITY FOR FINDING US IS GREATER THAN OUR CAPACITY FOR GETTING LOST!

1. **THAT'S WHY! YOU CAN'T GIVE UP *ON YOUR WAYWARD CHILD*;**
2. **THAT'S WHY! YOU CAN'T GIVE UP ON YOUR CRACK HEAD COUSIN;**
3. **THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T GIVE UP ON YOUR LOOSE SISTER;**
4. **THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T GIVE UP ON YOUR BEER BOTTLE BROTHER;**
5. **THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T GIVE UP ON YOUR ALCOHOLIC DAD;**
6. **THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T GIVE UP ON YOUR MALADJUSTED MAMA.**
7. **BECAUSE: GOD'S CAPACITY FOR FINDING US IS GREATER THAN OUR CAPACITY FOR GETTING LOST!**

THAT'S WHY JESUS SAID, "I CAME TO SEEK AND TO SAVE THAT WHICH WAS LOST."

THIS PARABLE SHOWS US THAT GOD LOVES AND CARES FOR THE LOST.

THIS WOMAN HAD TEN PIECES OF SILVER, AND LOST ONE.

**THE NUMBER “10” IS THE NUMBER FOR “COMPLETION.”
5+5=10. IT REPRESENTS THE WHOLE PERSON, MAN’S
TOTALITY.**

**THE NUMBER “10” SUGGEST THAT YOUR LIFE IS FULL AND
COMPLETE.**

**AND I BELIEVE ALL THAT THE WORD OF GOD IS TRYING TO
TELL US IS THAT: WITHOUT CHRIST IN YOUR LIFE, YOUR
LIFE IS INCOMPLETE.**

**YOU MAY HAVE THE S.U.V, THE BIG SCREEN T.V., AND A
GOOD JOB; YOU MAYBE ABLE TO BUY DIAMOND RINGS AND
ALL KINDS OF THINGS, BUT WITHOUT JESUS IN YOUR LIFE,
YOUR LIFE IS INCOMPLETE.**

**THE GOSPEL OF LUKE NOT ONLY TELLS US THAT WHAT SHE
LOST IN THE HOUSE WAS VALUABLE, BUT THAT WHAT SHE
LOST WAS ALSO WHAT MADE HER COMPLETE.**

**MAYBE THAT’S THE PROBLEM WITH MOST OF US, WE THINK
WE NEED SOMETHING OR SOMEONE ELSE OTHER THAN
JESUS TO MAKE US FEEL COMPLETE.**

- 1. THAT’S WHY WE ARE IN ONE RELATIONSHIP AFTER
ANOTHER;**
- 2. THAT’S WHY WERE ARE GOING FROM ONE JOB TO
ANOTHER;**
- 3. THAT’S WHY WE ARE JUMPING FROM PILLAR TO POST;**
- 4. THAT’S WHY WE ARE LOOKING FOR LOVE IN ALL THE
WRONG PLACES;**

5. **THAT'S WHY WE ARE SEARCHING FOR JOY AND PEACE BUT FINDING NONE.**

THIS WOMAN LOST THAT WHICH MADE HER COMPLETE, AND, SHE LOST IT IN THE HOUSE.

ISN'T IS AMAZING HOW EASY IT IS TO LOSE SOMETHING IN YOUR OWN HOUSE?

YOU KNOW WHERE IT IS, BUT THEN, YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS.

YOU KNOW IT'S IN THE HOUSE, BUT WHERE IN THE HOUSE? AND YET, MANY OF US ARE GUILTY OF LOOKING "OUTSIDE" THE HOUSE FOR WHAT WE LOST "INSIDE" THE HOUSE.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR THAT WHICH WILL MAKE US COMPLETE IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES.

BUT I THINK I OUGHT TO TELL YOU THAT:

1. **PEACE CAN'T BE FOUND IN THE LIQUOR STORE**
2. **JOY CAN'T BE FOUND IN A CRACK HOUSE;**
3. **FULFILLMENT CAN'T BE FOUND IN A HOUSE OF ILL REPUTE;**
4. **YOU WILL NEVER FIND THAT WHICH WAS LOST IN THE HOUSE BY LOOKING OUTSIDE THE HOUSE.**

THE COIN WAS LOST "IN" THE HOUSE BECAUSE IT WAS BADLY MISHANDLED, MISUSED AND MISPLACED.

IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY WHEN YOUR LIFE HAS BEEN BADLY MISHANDLED, MISUSED AND MISPLACED.

1. **IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY TO APOLOGIZE.**
2. **IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY TO BEGIN OVER.**

3. IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY TO ADMIT ERROR.
4. IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY TO TAKE
5. T'S NOT ALWAYS EASY TO BE UNSELFISH.
6. IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY TO KEEP ON TRYING.
7. IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY TO BE CONSIDERATE.
8. IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY TO THINK AND THEN ACT.
9. IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY TO PROFIT BY MISTAKES.
10. IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY TO FORGIVE AND FORGET.
11. IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY TO SHOULDER A DESERVED BLAME, BUT IT ALWAYS PAYS.

**WHEN JESUS USES THE TERM "LOST" HE IS REFERRING TO:
THE CONDITION OF BEING DISCONNECTED FROM ITS
OWNER OR TO BE IN A STATE OF DEPRAVITY.**

IN FACT, THE WHOLE MISSION OF CHRIST WAS TO *"SEEK AND SAVE THAT WHICH IS LOST!"*

IT WASN'T THAT HE COULDN'T FIND US OR THAT SOMEHOW ANY OF US WERE OUT OF HIS REACH, BUT THE PROBLEM WAS THAT SOMEHOW WE HAD BECOME DISCONNECTED FROM OUR OWNER, WHO IS GOD THE FATHER...

YOU MIGHT ASK, PASTOR, HOW DID IT HAPPEN? WELL, SIN IS WHAT SEPARATED US FROM GOD!

DIVIDED LOYALTIES BETWEEN THE WORLD AND GOD WILL SHORT-CIRCUITED OUR CONNECTION WITH GOD. BECAUSE *"NO MAN CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS, EITHER HE WILL LOVE THE ONE AND HATE THE OTHER, BUT HE CANNOT SERVE BOTH AT THE SAME TIME."*

AND YET, IN SPITE OF US... GOD CAME LOOKING FOR US:

1. HE FOUND ADAM WALKING THROUGH THE JUNGLE HALF NAKED.
2. HE FOUND JACOB WHILE HE WAS HOOKING AND CROOKING.
3. HE FOUND RAHAB IN A HOUSE OF ILL REPUTE.;
4. HE FOUND ELI IN A DRUNKEN STUPOR.
5. HE FOUND JONAH HIDING IN THE BOTTOM OF A BOAT.
6. HE FOUND MATTHEW CHEATING FOLK WITH THE NUMBERS.
7. HE FOUND PAUL ON HIS WAY TO DO WRONG. SO, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS THE CRUCIAL QUESTION IS; HOW DO I FIND THE COIN? HOW DO I GET BACK THAT WHICH I'VE LOST? YOU TELL ME, HOW DO I GET RECONNECTED TO THAT WHICH MAKES ME COMPLETE?

WELL, IT'S RIGHT THERE IN OUR TEXT. NOTICE IF YOU WILL,

- I. THE FIRST THING THAT THIS WOMAN DOES. THE TEXT SAYS: "SHE LIT A CANDLE..."
 - A. WHICH SUGGEST THAT, WHAT SHE LOST, SHE LOST IT IN THE DARK! AND THAT OUGHT NOT BE TOO HARD FOR US TO UNDERSTAND. BECAUSE, I'VE GOT A FUNNY FEELING THAT SOMEBODY IN HERE HAS SOMETHING VALUABLE IN THE DARK!
 1. SOMEBODY LOST HIS OR HER VIRGINITY IN SOME DIMLY LIT HOTEL ROOM.
 2. SOMEBODY LOST HIS OR HER DIGNITY IN SOME DARKEN ALLEY OFF THE MAIN DRAG.

3. **SOMEBODY MAY HAVE LOST HIS OR HER FUTURE AT THE CASINO.**
4. **SOMEBODY LOST HIS OR HER SELF-RESPECT IN SOME FUNKY MIDNIGHT BAR.**
5. **SOMEBODY LOST HIS OR HER SELF-ESTEEM...SNEAKING AROUND WITH SOMEBODY ELSE HUSBAND OR WIFE.**

B. AND THE PROBLEM IS, THAT MOST FOLK HAVE GOTTEN COMFORTABLE IN THE DARK!

1. **YOUR EYES, YOUR MIND, YOUR FLESH HAS GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO LIVING IN THE DARK.**
2. **MAYBE THAT'S THE REASON YOU CAN'T FIND THAT WHICH MAKES YOU WHOLE AND COMPLETE, BECAUSE YOU'RE TRYING TO FIND IT; "IN THE DARK!"**
3. **NO WONDER JESUS SAID: "MEN LOVE DARKNESS, RATHER THAN LIGHT" BECAUSE IT'S SO EASY TO GET ACCUSTOMED TO "THE DARK!"**
4. **BUT, NEED I WARN YOU THAT DEMONS AND DEVILS AND FREAKS COME OUT AT NIGHT.**

C. AND I BELIEVE THAT'S ALL THE WORD OF GOD IS TRYING TO TELL US IS THAT: "IF," YOU WANT TO FIND THAT WHICH IS VALUABLE AND COMPLETE: "SHINE SOME LIGHT ON IT."

1. **IF, YOU WANT TO KNOW: WHETHER THAT MAN OR WOMAN IS FOR YOU. SHINE SOME LIGHT ON IT!**

2. IF, YOU WANT TO KNOW: WHO'S YOUR FRIEND OR YOUR FOE. SHINE SOME LIGHT ON IT!
3. IF, YOU WANT TO KNOW: IF IT'S THE RIGHT JOB. SHINE SOME LIGHT ON IT!
4. IF, YOU WANT TO KNOW: IF IT'S THE RIGHT DRESS TO WEAR. SHINE SOME LIGHT ON IT!
5. IF, YOU WANT TO KNOW: IF THAT'S THE RIGHT CHURCH FOR YOU TO JOIN. SHINE SOME LIGHT ON IT!
6. BECAUSE LIGHT HAS A STRANGE WAY OF EXPOSING THAT WHICH HAS BEEN COVERED AND HIDDEN IN THE DARK!

D. THE TEXT SAYS: "SHE LIT A CANDLE..."

1. " NOT ONLY DID SHE LIGHT A CANDLE THAT IT MIGHT EXPOSED THAT WHICH WAS HIDDEN IN THE DARK, BUT ALSO THAT IT MIGHT BE SEEN IN THE LIGHT.
2. SHE LIT A CANDLE SO SHE MIGHT SEE WHAT SHE WAS STEPPING IN.

E. AND THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS, THAT A LOT OF US HERE TODAY HAVE BEEN STEPPING INTO SOME MESS BECAUSE WE WERE "WALKING IN THE DARK!"

1. IF ONLY YOU HAD KNOWN THAT WHAT YOUR SO CALLED FRIEND WAS OFFERING YOU THAT NIGHT AT THE PARTY THAT WOULD TAKE YOU 15 YRS. TO GET RID OF;
2. YES, YOUNG LADIES KEEP YOUR DRESS DOWN; YOUNG MEN KEEP YOUR PANTS ZIP UP. BECAUSE YOU MIGHT HAVE TO DEAL

WITH SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN'T GET RID OF THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, BECAUSE YOU WERE WALKING IN THE DARK, AND YOU STEPPED INTO SOME MESS.

- 3. THIS WOMAN "...LIT A CANDLE, " SO SHE COULD SEE WHERE SHE WAS STEPPING.**
- 4. SHE NEEDED "A LAMP UNTO HER FEET, AND A LIGHT UNTO HER PATH."**
- 5. MAYBE THAT'S GOD'S WORD FOR SOMEBODY IN HERE THIS MORNING. YOU NEED JESUS TO SEE WHAT YOU'RE STEPPING IN, BECAUSE "HE IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIGHT."**
- 6. WITHOUT JESUS THERE IS NO LIGHT.**
- 7. WITHOUT JESUS THERE IS NO WAY TO BE RESCUED.**

F. WITHOUT JESUS THERE IS NOTHING.

- 1. IN OTHER WORDS, IF THERE IS NO JESUS IN IT, GET OUT OF IT;**
- 2. IF THERE IS NO JESUS IN THE RELATIONSHIP, GET OUT OF IT;**
- 3. IF THERE IS NO JESUS IN THAT FRIENDSHIP, GET OUT OF IT;**
- 4. IF THERE IS NO JESUS IN THAT BUSINESS, GET OUT OF IT;**
- 5. IF THERE IS NO JESUS IN THAT BUSINESS DEAL YOU'RE ABOUT TO ENTER, GET OUT OF IT!**

6. IF THERE IS NO JESUS IN THAT HOUSE THAT YOU'VE BEEN GOING TO, TOUCH SOMEBODY AND TELL HIM OR HER GET OUT OF IT!

I. AND THAT LEADS ME TO MY SECOND POINT AND THAT IS: NOT ONLY DID SHE LOOSE THAT WHICH WAS VALUABLE AND MADE HER COMPLETE. BUT SHE LOST IT, IN THE DIRT! BECAUSE THE TEXT SAYS THE NEXT HING SHE DID WAS: "SWEEP THE HOUSE." IN OTHER WORDS SHE SWEPT THE FLOOR.

A. UNDERSTAND NOW; IN THOSE DAYS, THEY DIDN'T HAVE CERAMIC OR MARBLE TILE, THERE WERE NO HARDWOOD, VINYL OR CARPETED FLOORS.

1. THE FLOOR WAS THE GROUND ITSELF, IT WAS JUST "DIRT." WHICH MEANT THAT IN ORDER FOR HER TO FIND HER COIN, SHE FIRST HAD TO "SWEPT UP THE DIRT IN HER HOUSE."

B. WELL MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, MAYBE THAT'S GOD'S WAY OF REMINDING US THAT, IF WE'RE GOING TO FIND THAT WHICH IS VALUABLE AND MAKES US COMPLETE, THEN YOU'VE GOT TO SWEEP, THE DIRT IN OUR LIVES.

1. STOP KEEPING SUCH A DIRTY HOUSE.
2. STOP LIVING YOUR LIFE IN THE DIRT.
3. SWEEP YOUR HOUSE, GET RID OF THE DIRT, BECAUSE WHEREVER THERE IS DIRT, THERE'S ALSO SOME DUST;
4. AND SOMEBODY IN HERE KNOWS THAT DUST IS A SIGN OF NEGLECT!
5. MAYBE THAT'S WHAT GOD IS TRYING TO TELL SOMEBODY HERE TODAY.

6. IF YOU WANT PEACE IN YOUR HOME, STOP NEGLECTING YOUR HOME.
7. IF YOU WANT LOVE IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP, STOP NEGLECTING THE RELATIONSHIP.
8. IF YOU WANT JOY IN YOUR CHURCH, STOP NEGLECTING YOUR CHURCH.

C. BUT, THE PROBLEM IS, THE MORE YOU SWEEP THE DIRT, THE MORE DUST YOU CREATE. AND THE MORE YOU AGITATE THE DUST, THE MORE THE DUST AGITATES YOU.

1. DUST HAS A WAY OF AFFECTING EVERYBODY IN THE HOUSE.
2. AND THAT'S WHY THERE'S SO MUCH DISSENTION IN THE HOME, BECAUSE SOMEBODY IS STIRRING UP SOME DUST!
3. MAYBE THAT'S WHY THERE'S SO MUCH DIVISION IN THE CHURCH, BECAUSE, SOMEBODY IS CREATING SOME DUST!

D. GRAB...SOMEBODY BY THE HAND AND TELL HIM OR HER:

1. PARDON MY DUST – I 'M JUST TRYING TO FIND WHAT I LOST.
2. PARDON MY DUST – I'M JUST UNDER CONSTRUCTION.
3. PARDON MY DUST – I'M TRYING TO FIND MY WAY.
4. PARDON MY DUST – BUT GOD AIN'T THROUGH WITH ME YET!

**E. THIS WOMAN: "LIT A CANDLE," AND "SHE SWEEP
THE FLOOR..." !!!**

1. SHE SWEEP UNDER THE COUCH AND FLIPPING OVER THE CUSHIONS.
2. SHE SWEEP UNDER THE TABLE.
3. SHE SWEEP UNDER THE CHAIRS.
4. SHE SWEEP UNDER THE REFRIGERATOR.
5. SHE SWEEP UNDER THE BED.
6. SHE SWEEP IN THE CLOSED.
7. SHE SWEEP BEHIND THE WASHING MACHINE, AND SHE CHECKS THE LINT TRAP IN THE DRYER.

**II. BUT, THERE'S ONE MORE THING THAT SHE DID IN ORDER
TO FIND THAT WHICH WAS LOST. THE TEXT SAYS:
"...SHE SEARCHED DILIGENTLY."**

- A. LOOKING IN EVERY CORNER, EVERY CRACK AND CREVICE.**
1. LOOKING IN EVERY DRESSER DRAW IN THE HOUSE!
 2. SHE SAYS OH...I PRAYED THAT THE LORD WOULD HELP ME TO FIND MY VALUABLE COIN THAT I LOST.
 3. AND NOT ONLY WAS IT LOST IN THE DIRT, AND NOT ONLY WAS IT LOST IN THE DARK. BUT IT WAS LOST AMONG DEBRIS!
 4. SHE STARTED THROWING OUT SOME STUFF!

5. SHE STARTED CLEANING OUT SOME CLOSETS!
6. SHE STARTED LOOKING IN EVERY PANTS AND COAT POCKET!
7. SHE STARTED EMPTYING OUT SOME DRAWERS!
8. SHE STARTED PULLING STUFF FROM UNDER THE BED AND OUT OF THE CLOSET!

B. AND MAYBE THAT'S GOD'S WORD FOR US. IF, YOU'RE GOING TO FIND THAT WHICH IS VALUABLE! IF, YOU'RE GOING TO LOCATE THAT WHICH MAKE YOU COMPLETE! MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU STARTED THROWING OUT SOME STUFF.

1. MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU STARTED CLEANING OUT YOUR CLOSET.
2. MAYBE IT'S TIME YOU STARTED GETTING RID OF THE STUFF UNDER YOU BED, BETWEEN YOUR BED AND IN YOUR BED.

CONCLUSION

LASTLY...WE SEE A GREAT CELEBRATION. "...SHE SEARCHED DILIGENTLY TILL SHE FOUND IT." I HAVE FOUND AND WHEN SHE HATH FOUND IT."

1. WHEN SHE FOUND IT, SHE BEGINS TO BE MERRY!
2. WHEN SHE FOUND IT, SHE JUMPED FOR JOY!
3. WHEN SHE FOUND IT, SHE GOT HAPPY ALL AT ONCE!
4. WHEN SHE FOUND IT, SHE WAS IN HIGH SPIRIT GIVING HIGH FIVES (5)!

5. WHEN SHE FOUND IT, SHE BECAME VERY CONTENTED!
6. WHEN SHE FOUND IT, SHE HAD A CHEERFUL SMILE ON HER FACE!
7. WHEN SHE FOUND IT, SHE WAS AT EASE WITH HERSELF!

SO, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, "...SHE CALLED HER FRIENDS AND HER NEIGHBORS TOGETHER, SAYING REJOICE WITH ME."

1. SHE CALLED FOR HER BEST FRIEND SALLY SUE!
2. SHE CALLED MARY AND JOANN!
3. SHE CALLED BILLY AND BOBBY!
4. SHE CALLED JAMES AND SHE CALLED JOHN!
5. SHE CALLED RAY RAY AND POOKIE;

SHE CALLED LATREASE AND TAMARA, "SAYING REJOICE WITH ME..."

WELL, MAYBE SHE DIDN'T SAY THAT, BUT YOU CAN BET SHE WAS HAPPY!

1. THE COIN WAS LOST IN THE HOUSE, BUT IT WAS ALSO FOUND IN THE HOUSE.
2. IT'S BEEN LOST BUT NOW IT IS FOUND.

THAT'S WHAT JESUS DID, WHEN HE STEPPED OUT OF HEAVEN INTO OUR HELLISH MESS!

1. WE WERE LOST BUT NOW WE ARE FOUND.
2. HE BROUGHT LIGHT INTO A DARK AND DISMAL WORLD.

OH MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, I WANT TO KNOW WHERE DID GOD FIND YOU?

1. WHAT WERE YOU DOING WHEN HE FOUND YOU?
2. WHAT CONDITION WERE YOU IN WHEN HE FOUND YOU?
3. HOW FAR DID GOD HAVE TO REACH DOWN TO GRAB YOU?

NOW, THE 1ST PART OF THIS PARABLE, WHERE THE SHEPARD LEAVES THE NINETY AND NINE AND GOES ON A HUNT FOR THE ONE THAT WAS LOST!

1. AND THAT LETS US KNOW THAT IT WAS NOT WE WHO WENT LOOKING FOR GOD, BUT GOD WHO CAME LOOKING FOR US.
2. THE BIBLE SAYS: JESUS CAME RECONCILING (RECONNECTING) THAT WHICH HAS BEEN DISCONNECTED BACK TO THE FATHER.
3. SIMPLY BECAUSE: GOD IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE LOST! "GOD'S DESIRE IS THAT NONE SHOULD PERISH, BUT COME TO REPENTANCE."

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT: NOT ONLY IS HE CONCERNED ABOUT YOU AND I BEING LOST. BUT THE 2ND PART OF THIS PARABLE LETS US KNOW THAT HE'S ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT "WHAT" YOU MAY HAVE LOST.

1. BECAUSE, THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS: IF, YOU ARE LOST, IF, YOU ARE DISCONNECTED, THAT MEANS THAT EVERYTHING YOU HAVE IN YOUR POSSESSION IS LOST AND DISCONNECT-ED FROM THE CARE AND CONTROL OF THE FATHER.
2. *"WHAT PROFIT A MAN TO GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD AND STILL BE DISCONNECTED FROM THE FATHER?"*

3. THAT'S WHY IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU REMAIN CONNECTED TO GOD, IN ORDER THAT EVERYTHING THAT YOU HAVE MAY BE UNDER THE CONTROL AND CARE OF GOD!

THE WHOLE OF THIS PARABLE (ALL THREE PARTS) DEPICTS THE SOUL OF THE SINNER WHO IS LOST! BUT THE PRIMARY EMPHASIS OF THE 2ND PART OF THIS PARABLE IS NOT ON THE PERSON BUT THE PLACE.

1. IT'S NOT ON THE WHO BUT THE WHERE THAT THE THING IS LOST.
2. THAT'S IMPORTANT BECAUSE I'VE DISCOVERED THAT A LOT OF US LOVE TO POINT FINGERS AT: THE DRUNK ON THE STREET THAT MAYBE LOST,
3. WE WANT TO POINT FINGERS AT THE PIMP OR THE PROSTITUTEWHO MAY BE LOST;
4. WE WANT TO POINT FINGERS AT THE PUSHER THAT MAYBE LOST
5. WHEN THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT THERE IS A LOT OF FOLK WHO ARE "LOST IN THE HOUSE!"
6. YES...THERE MAY BE THOSE THAT ARE LOST BECAUSE THEY GOT "SIDETRACKED OR DIVERTED" FROM THIS HOUSE.
7. AND THERE ARE THOSE THAT GOT LOST BECAUSE THEY "STRAYED" FROM THIS HOUSE.

BUT WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT THERE ARE THOSE THAT ARE LOST, EVEN THOUGH THEY GOT "SIDETRACKED, DIVERTED OR STAYED" BUT THEY ARE STILL IN THIS HOUSE!

1. THEY ARE FAITHFUL IN THEIR ATTENDANCE.

2. **THEY WOULDN'T MISS SUNDAY SCHOOL, BIBLE STUDY OR PRAYER MEETING, FOR NOBODY.**
3. **THEY SERVE ON BOARDS AND AUXILIARIES.**
4. **BUT THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS: THAT A LOT OF TIMES THEY DON'T HAVE ANY SENSE OF DESTINY OR DIRECTION.**
5. **THEY DON'T HAVE ANY SENSE OF PURPOSE.**
6. **THEY ARE "LOST IN THE HOUSE!" BECAUSE SOMEHOW OR ANOTHER THEY HAVE BECOME "DISCONNECTED FROM THE FATHER."**

THE TEXT SAYS: "THIS WOMAN LOST HER COIN IN THE HOUSE..."

1. **A PLACE OF FAMILIARITY!**
2. **A PLACE OF COMFORT AND SECURITY!**
3. **A PLACE WHERE YOU'D LEAST EXPECTS TO LOOSE SOMETHING!**

THE TEXT SAYS: SHE LOST IT: IN THE HOUSE!

1. **WHAT SHE ONCE POSSESSED, SHE NO LONGER HAD.**
2. **AND, I'VE GOT A SNEAKING SUSPICION THAT I'M LOOKING AT SOMEBODY IN HERE WHO NO LONGER HAVE WHAT YOU USE TO HAVE, BECAUSE YOU LOST IT, SOMEWHERE IN THE HOUSE."**
3. **YOU REMEMBER THE ZEAL THAT YOU USE TO HAVE WHEN YOU FIRST JOINED THE CHURCH, YOU WERE THE FIRST ONE HERE AND THE LAST ONE TO LEAVE**
4. **BUT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, YOU'VE LOST THAT WHAT YOU USE TO HAVE.**

5. **YOU REMEMBER THE JOY, THE EXCITEMENT THAT YOU USE TO HAVE WHEN YOU FIRST JOINED THE CHOIR.**
6. **WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED SERVING ON THE USHER BOARD.**
7. **WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED SERVING THE LORD,**
8. **BUT NOW THERE IS NO JOY, NO EXCITEMENT, AND NO MOTIVATION ANYMORE.**
9. **WHY? BECAUSE YOU'VE LOST IT "IN THE HOUSE**

YOU REMEMBER HOW YOU FELT WHEN HE FIRST HELD YOUR HAND AND KISSED YOU.

1. **YOU REMEMBER HOW YOU COULDN'T STAND TO BE APART?**
2. **BUT NOW...THAT YOU'RE MARRIED.**
3. **NOW THAT YOU SHARE THE SAME CLOSET, THE SAME BED, SOMETHING HAS GOTTEN LOST IN THE HOUSE...**
4. **YOU GOT YOUR ROOM AND HE'S GOT HIS...**
5. **HE'S GOT HIS BANK ACCOUNT AND YOU GOT YOURS;**
6. **THE TEXT SAYS: "SHE LOST HER COIN, IN THE HOUSE!"**

NOTICE NOW. WHAT SHE LOST WAS FIRST OF ALL: VALUABLE! IT WAS A COIN THAT HAD VALUE AND WORTH.

MAYBE THAT'S GOD'S WAY OF REMINDING US THAT: WHEN YOU LOOSE YOUR CONNECTION WITH GOD., WHEN YOU LOOSE THE JOY IN FELLOWSHIP AND SERVING, IN THE HOUSE OF GOD, YOU'VE LOST SOMETHING VALUABLE!

NOTHING IS MORE VALUABLE THAN A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER.

UH HUH... NOTHING IS MORE VALUABLE THAN A CONNECTION WITH GOD'S HOUSE.

IN FACT THAT'S WHY JESUS CAME LOOKING FOR US, BECAUSE... WE ARE VALUABLE TO GOD.

WE ARE NOT JUNK, BECAUSE GOD DON'T MAKE JUNK.

MANKIND IS THE CROWN OF HIS CREATION, WHICH MEANS THAT WE HAVE VALUE WITH GOD.

1. **THE COIN WAS VALUABLE BECAUSE IT COULD PAY THE HOUSE NOTE OR THE RENT PAYMENT!**
2. **THE COIN WAS VALUABLE BECAUSE IT COULD PAY THE LIGHT AND GAS BILL.**
3. **THE COIN WAS VALUABLE BECAUSE IT COULD PAY THE WATER BILL**
4. **THE COIN WAS VALUABLE BECAUSE IT COULD PUT SHOES ON YOUR FEET.**
5. **THE COIN WAS VALUABLE BECAUSE IT COULD PROVIDE CLOTHING ON YOUR BACK.**
6. **THE COIN WAS VALUABLE BECAUSE IT COULD BUY FURNITURE FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD.**
7. **THE COIN WAS VALUABLE BECAUSE IT COULD PUT GAS IN YOUR CAR.**
8. **THE COIN WAS VALUABLE BECAUSE IT COULD PAY THE INSURANCE PREMIUM.**
9. **THE COIN WAS VALUABLE BECAUSE IT COULD BUY BREAD TO PUT ON YOUR TABLE.**

**AND LIKE A COIN, YOU CAN GET LOST IN YOUR OWN HOME.
MANY FOLK ARE LOST IN THE HOUSE.**

1. WHEN YOU ARE "LOST" BROTHERS AND SISTERS, YOU ARE NOT WHERE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE.
2. WHEN YOU ARE "LOST" YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU ARE, OR HOW YOU GET THERE.
3. WHEN YOU ARE "LOST" YOU HAVE NO FOCAL POINT OF LOCATION OUTSIDE OF "SELF."

YOU ARE LOST IN THE HOUSE:

1. LOST IN THE HOUSE OF WORRY;
2. LOST IN THE HOUSE OF YOUR DEFEAT;
3. LOST IN THE HOUSE OF YOUR GRIEF;
4. LOST IN THE HOUSE OF YOUR HATE AND ANGER;
5. LOST IN THE HOUSE OF YOUR UNBELIEF;
6. LOST IN THE HOUSE OF YOUR PEACE OF MIND;
7. LOST IN THE HOUSE OF YOUR UNBELIEF AND CARELESSNESS.
8. LOST IN THE HOUSE OF YOUR STUMBLING BLOCKS.

WELL MONEY IS VALUABLE, AND AS VALUABLE AS MONEY IS. I THINK I OUGHT TO TELL YOU THERE IS SOMETHING THAT IS MORE VALUABLE THAN MONEY!

YOU CAN GAIN ALL THAT THERE IS, AND STILL LOSE OUT IN THE END!

“WHAT DOES IT PROFIT A MAN IF HE GAINS THE WHOLE WORLD AND LOOSES HIS OWN SOUL?”

**THE COIN WAS LOST. BUT WE NEED TO SEEK THOSE THAT
ARE LOST AND SHOW THEM THE WAY BACK HOME.**

**“AMAZING GRACE HOW SWEET THE SOUND THAT SAVED A
WRETCH LIKE ME! I ONCE WAS LOST BUT NOW AM FOUND,
WAS BLIND BUT NOW I SEE.”**

ULTRA CONCLUSION

**I THANK GOD, THAT WHEN I WAS LOST, HE SENT JESUS TO
FIND ME.**

AND WHEN HE FOUND ME:

**“I WAS SINKING DEEP IN SIN,
FAR FROM THEW PEACEFUL SHORE,
VERY DEEPLY STAINED WITHIN,
I WAS SINKING TO RISE NO MORE,
BUT THE MASTER OF THE SEA,
HE HEARD MY DISPAIRING CRY,
AND FROM THE WATERS HE LIFTED ME,
NOW SAFE, SAFE, AM I,
LOVE LIFTED ME,
LOVE LIFTED ME,
WHEN NOTHING ELSE COULD HELP,
LOVE LIFTED ME**

**LOVE CAUSED JESUS TO GO TO CALVARY FOR YOU AND FOR
ME;**

**BECAUSE HE LOVED US, HE ALLOWED THEM TO DRIVE
NAILS IN HIS HANDS AND FEET FOR YOU AND FOR ME;**

**THEY STRETCHED HIM WIDE, AND THEY HUNG HIM HIGH;
OH... HE DIED FOR YOU AND FOR ME;**

HIS BLOOD DID WHAT DETERGENT COULDN'T DO.

HIS BLOOD DID WHAT A MOP AND BROOM COULDN'T DO.

**HIS BLOOD GOT THE DIRT OUT, AND WASHED US WHITE AS
SNOW.**

**THEY BURIED HIM IN A BORROWED TOMB; HE STAYED
THERE THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS;**

**AND RIGHT EARLY... SUNDAY MORNING. HE GOT UP, WITH
ALL POWER IN HIS HAND.**

**I'VE GOT TO CLOSE HERE NOW, BUT BEFORE I CLOSE, CAN I
ASK YOU THREE QUESTIONS?...**

- 1. DO YOU KNOW HIM?**
- 2. HAVE YOU TRIED HIM;**
- 3. AIN'T HE ALRIGHT?**

**IF YOU KNOW HIM...IF YOU HAVE TIRED HIM...IF YOU
KNOW HE'S ALRIGHT...SHOUT YES...YES...YES...I.... KNOW
HE'S ALRIGHT.**