

# Daily Reflections

The Divine Intervention

November 5, 2015

## *Scripture*

### **Luke 15:1-10**

The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So Jesus addressed this parable to them.

"What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it?

And when he does find it,

he sets it on his shoulders with great joy

and, upon his arrival home,

he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them,

'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.'

I tell you, in just the same way

there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.

"Or what woman having ten coins and losing one would not light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until she finds it?"

And when she does find it,  
she calls together her friends and neighbors  
and says to them,  
'Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost.'  
In just the same way, I tell you,  
there will be rejoicing among the angels of God  
over one sinner who repents."

## *Our Scripture Reflection*

Surely, there were those in the crowd who thought the Lord was either joking or just plain nuts. Who would go through so much effort and risk to retrieve one lost smelly sheep? Who would go through so much effort and expense to retrieve one, tiny lost coin???

Jesus' point: If humans would put so much effort into going after lost animals and objects, how much more will God seek out and rescue His children who are lost.

## *Food for your Journey*

This parable of the woman who lost one silver coin out of 10, causing her to light a lamp, sweep the house, and search for it, describes a woman wearing 10 silver coins bound on her forehead as a dowry. This is why it is so urgent that she find that piece of jewelry.

In many villages, even today, in the Middle-East ... we still find the ceremony of binding the head performed on the first day of the young bride's womanhood in the presence of invited female guests. In some regions the bridegroom's family presents the bride with a headdress decorated with gold coins.

This becomes the bride's personal property and forms a financial support for the new family, as it can be changed into money in time of need. It also serves as an indication of the woman's financial status. The silver ornaments on the headdress are in the nature of a talisman against evil and misfortune, and serve to preserve the wearer's health and strength.

When the Pharisees and the scribes questioned Jesus about eating with the tax collectors and sinners, Jesus, in typical Hebraic fashion, gave them a graphic explanation with this illustration.

Imagine if you were the woman who lost one of your "treasured" possessions — a gift from a loved one. How would you really feel ... while you search for the lost item and when you finally find it? Truly, a feast is in order.

–“The lost coin,” October 26, 2003, Antioch Networks International Web Site, Antioch.com.

## *Prayer from the Heart*

Dear Jesus, Many times in my life I have gotten myself terribly lost due to sin. Each time, Lord, You rescued me. Lord, please keep me safe always in Your love. Amen.

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