

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

SEPTEMBER 20

"FOR THE ONE"
THE LOST COIN

Scripture References

- **Luke 15:1-2, 8-10**
- **Romans 3:23**
- **Psalm 119:105**
- **Matthew 5:14-16**
- **Matthew 28:19-20**

Quick Re-Cap

In Jesus' story, a woman has ten silver coins, and each one is worth a full day's pay. When she loses one, she doesn't shrug and say, "Oh well, I've still got nine." She does three things: she lights a lamp, she sweeps the house, and she keeps looking until she finds it. The lamp helps her see what's hidden in the dark. Notice that she uses the light to find the coin, not to point a finger at it, and that's a great reminder for us! God's Word is a lamp for our own feet (Psalm 119:105), and we shine it on others to help them see Jesus, never to make fun of them or judge them. Then she sweeps, she's willing to move the furniture and dig through the dust, because the coin matters more than a tidy living room. We need to sweep too, **by asking God which things in our lives are only temporary**, like our favorite spot on the couch, our preferences, or our stuff. We shouldn't hold on to those more tightly than the things that last forever, like God's Word and people's souls. Finally, she keeps seeking until she finds it, and then she throws a party! **Jesus says heaven celebrates the same way every time one person turns back to God** (Luke 15:10). Here's the big heart of the story: a coin is worth whatever the owner will pay for it, and Jesus paid everything for every one of us (1 Corinthians 6:20). All of us have been lost at some point (Romans 3:23), so we know how wonderful it is to be found, and every lost person is worth the same price and the same celebration.

Illustration

During World War II, the United States needed copper for the war effort, so in 1943 the mint made pennies out of steel and zinc instead. But a few copper blanks slipped through by mistake. In 1947, a 17-year-old named Don Lutz Jr. got change from his school cafeteria and noticed one penny looked strange. It was copper. He wrote to the U.S. Treasury, who told him that kind of penny couldn't exist! But he kept it safe anyway. After he passed away in 2019, his family had it appraised, and it sold at auction for over \$200,000. (Another copper 1943 penny from the Denver mint was once valued at \$1.7 million.) Here's the thing: if you took that penny to a bank, they'd only give you one cent for it. What made it worth so much was that someone decided to pay a high price for it. Our worth works the same way. Nobody is worth just "a penny." **Jesus decided we were worth the cross, and that settles it.**

Application

So what do we do with this? First, we remember that we are valuable, because Jesus paid a huge price for us. So is everyone else, even the kid who is hard to get along with or the neighbor who seems like a "lost cause." Second, we use our light to help, not to hurt. That means being kind, telling the truth with love, and never using the Bible like a stick to poke at people. Third, we get brave and "sweep the house." That means giving up some of our own comfort and preferences so more people can meet Jesus, because the things that last forever matter more than the things that don't. Fourth, we don't quit. The woman didn't stop after an hour, and we shouldn't stop praying for and loving the people God puts in our lives, even if they don't say "yes" right away. And last, we get to be part of the celebration when someone is found!

Convo Starters

- **Why do you think the woman worked so hard to find just one coin when she had nine more?**
- **What's the difference between using God's Word to help someone and using it to judge them?**
- **Is there something in our family's "house" we might need to sweep out or move so we can love people better?**
- **Who is a lost "coin" in our lives that we haven't given up on? How can we keep seeking?**