

## THE LOST, FAR AND NEAR

**Luke 15:4-10**

**(Not entirely original with me)**

**Introduction:** There was a time when families had religious pictures hanging on the house walls as well as prayers and scripture. One of the favorite pictures was that of Jesus carrying a little lamb. The picture represented God coming to seek and save the lost human race. Jesus spoke of two parables close together, one was of a lost lamb and the other was of a lost coin. Both parables speak of something being lost of value and the extent that the owner of each went to to find what that which was lost.

### **I. THERE WAS BUT ONE OF EACH LOST (sheep, coin)**

1. What was lost was of great value.
  - All was secure except one.
  - How valuable was just one sheep?
  - How valuable was just one coin?
2. A single soul is of great worth to God and He seeks the recovery of single souls.
  - Every single soul is known and loved by God although there are countless men and women
  - God distinguishes each separate heart and knows everything about each person.
3. With God, souls are not recognized by the multitudes but each soul stands alone in God's eyes.
  - As only one sheep out of many was missing, yet the shepherd had great concern for that one sheep.
  - As only one coin was missing, lost, the woman had great concern for that one coin.

### **II. NO COST IS TOO GREAT TO FIND THAT WHICH IS LOST**

1. The shepherd knew very well it was dangerous to go look for the one lost sheep, yet he went out to look for that one lost sheep.
  - Nothing would keep him back.
  - His desire was to find and save the one lost sheep.
2. The woman spared no pains to find the coin that was lost.
  - She searched her house over with a light and even swept the floors.
  - She persisted and kept looking till she found it
3. God spares no pain or toils to win (find) the lost soul.
  - Jesus, like the woman, was persistent within His own (Jewish people), until they turned against Him.
  - Like the shepherd, Jesus endangered His life for the sheep's sake, taking the road to Calvary.
  - There were never too much pain, sorrow that would cause Jesus to stop looking for the lost.
  - Jesus has left His followers, the Church, an example that we, too, should look for the lost.

### **III. WHERE ARE THE LOST THAT NEED TO BE FOUND?**

1. The coin was lost in the woman's house, not far away, not in some wilderness, not in some dangerous place, lying somewhere on the floor.
  - There are multitudes who are lost but are not far away.
    - Born and raised in a Christian country, neighborhood, home.
    - Yet they have never yielded their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ
    - Within the walls of their own family and community circle, they are lost.
    - Are there any lost "coins" in your house?
2. The sheep that was lost was far away from where the others were.
  - Far from the protection of the Shepherd and the place where it really belonged.
  - So are countless men and women who are lost, scattered around the world, not knowing the joy of being saved.
  - They are stamped with God's image, like the lost coin was stamped with the emperor's image.
  - Do you care about the lost sheep that are in danger in the wilderness of the world?

### **IV. WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THE LOST WAS FOUND?**

1. When the lost sheep was found, the Shepherd carried it back to be with the others.
  - He did not whip it or force it or tell somebody else to take care of it.
  - He picked it up and carried it back gently and lovingly to safety.
2. When the lost coin was found, the woman cleaned it up and put it back with the other coins.
  - She happily told others that she had found the coin that had been lost.
  - It was back where it should be, back where it could be used when needed.
3. Thus it is with the lost soul when found by the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. The lost, when found, are kept and carried like the Shepherd did the lost sheep.
  - Jesus carries the lost soul to his/her eternal home by a love far too strong to ever let him/her go.
2. The lost, when found are cleaned and become useful to the Lord in service to Him as was the coin that was lost.
3. Jesus keeps those that are found from being lost again and will present every single believer, who was once like the lost sheep or lost coin, faultless before the presence of God's glory and with undescrivable joy.
4. Every believer in Jesus Christ was once a lost sheep or lost coin but has been found and brought to safety by the Lord Jesus Christ, never to be lost again.