

Reading: Luke Chapter 14; Matthew Chapter 18

Jesus once told a story about a woman who lost something that was very precious to her and she searched and searched till she found it.

The woman lived in a house, not quite like the houses we live in. It was a square, squat shaped house, with thick walls, small windows and it was dark and cool inside, the floors were uneven and dust collected so easily in the dark corners of the house.

The woman's most treasured possession was a piece of jewellery made of ten pieces of silver or "coins". The ten pieces of silver had a picture of an owl or tortoise on them, and was joined together to form a headband or necklace. The woman looked after this piece of jewellery carefully from her wedding day and it was very careless of her to have lost a part of it.

The woman left all the household jobs, grinding the flour, making bread, fetching water from the well until her silver piece was found. She knew the coin was somewhere in the house, covered by dust and as the days past it was more likely to be buried under the thick dust, or swept into the corners, and less likely to be found.

She started her search for the coin, when she couldn't find it, she took a candle or lamp and a brush and carefully swept each corner of her house, looking for something shiny. She would turn her house upside down until she found her coin. When she did find her silver coin she was so overjoyed that she called friends and neighbours together to share in her joy.

What did Jesus mean by this story? He likened us to the pieces of silver, we can be lost, hidden away from God and not knowing or caring about "the gospel" but God cares for us even when we are forgetful of Him, and He is willing to "seek" us out, and if we are "found" by God, that is, if we are willing to learn about Him and Jesus, we are told then that there is "great rejoicing in heaven".

Another parable about the Lost Sheep. The sheep was lost, he had strayed from the shepherd. The Shepherd was straining his ears to hear where the lonely cry was coming from, and the Shepherd was very happy when he found the lost sheep, he carried the sheep on his shoulders and brought him safely home to the fold.

The Shepherd also called his friends and neighbours together to rejoice with him that he had found his lost sheep.

Point to remember:- God cares for us even when we forget Him.