

God and the Rebellious

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Luke 15:11-12

B. The Pharisees murmured against Jesus saying that He was demeaning Himself by eating with outcasts and sinners.

C. Jesus brought three parables to bring a picture to illustrate the joy in the heart of the Lord when one lost is found.

II. The Parable of the Lost Coin.

A. The circumstance of the lost coin—the coin had great sentimental value to the woman because it was part of her dowry (all the woman had to take to contribute to her wedding).

1. Something here was lost and lost at home where you would not expect to find lost things.

2. We are forced to ask if we have someone lost at home.

3. We find many in the church today who grow up lost and leave.

B. When the woman realized the coin was lost, she went into action.

1. God's heart moves out to the lost.

2. There is a process in reaching out to the lost.

a. Light a lamp—we need the guidance of Scripture when we realize our children do not know Christ. Proverbs is critical in regards to this.

b. Sweep the house—lay bear the circumstances of the family being willing to recognize personal fault and error. Nothing contributes to the growth of a household more than for parents to be transparent.

c. Search diligently—give yourself to the task entirely.

3. If we have a concern for our children, we must recognize they can be lost right at home.

C. When the woman found the coin, she had great joy that illustrates the Father's joy for a sinner repenting.

1. A maturing child warms the hearts of Christian parents.

2. Joy is finding one's children following the truth.

3. Despite all the problems in raising children, watching children entering life settled in faith, solid and secure will bring a joy that is shared in heaven as well.

Application questions:

1. How does the parable of the lost coin make us ask the question about the salvation of our children in the church and at home?

2. What can one do to help find his or her lost child? Which method stands out to you? Why?

3. The speaker claims that parents are too easy to think their child is saved because of a young confession despite their behavior later. What do you think?
