

Luke 15:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?

Analysis

Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently (ἢ τίς γυνὴ δραχμὰς ἔχουσα δέκα, ἐὰν ἀπολέσῃ δραχμὴν μίαν, ē tis gynē drachmas echousa deka, ean apolesē drachmēn mian)—Jesus shifts to a feminine image, showing God's pursuing love through domestic life. The drachmē (δραχμή) was a silver coin worth a day's wages. Ten coins likely represented her life savings or bridal dowry worn as a headpiece.

The woman **lights a lamp** (ἅπτει λύχνον, haptēi lychnon) because Palestinian peasant homes had small windows; **sweeps** (σαροῖ, saroi) thoroughly; and **seeks diligently** (ζητεῖ ἐπιμελῶς, zētei epimelōs) with focused attention. The adverb epimelōs (ἐπιμελῶς) means carefully, attentively—not casual searching but methodical intensity. This images God's meticulous care for each lost person.

Historical Context

Poor Palestinian women often wore their wealth as coin jewelry, both for safekeeping and dowry display. Losing a coin from a ten-piece headband meant losing 10 percent of her assets and potentially dishonoring her marriage. Houses had packed-dirt floors and minimal lighting, making lost coins nearly impossible to find without systematic searching. The woman's diligence reflected not just

financial need but social necessity. Jesus honors feminine experience as imaging divine pursuit.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's use of a woman's domestic experience challenge any notion that God relates to us only through masculine or public metaphors?
2. What does the woman's methodical searching—lighting, sweeping, seeking diligently—teach about God's intentional pursuit of you?
3. If you are the lost coin, how does it affect you to know God searches for you with the same intensity as someone seeking their life savings?

Interlinear Text

Ἡ	τίς	γυνή	δραχμὴν	ἔχουσα	δέκα	ἐὰν	ἀπολέσῃ
Either	what	woman	piece	having	ten	if	she lose
G2228	G5101	G1135	G1406	G2192	G1176	G1437	G622
δραχμὴν	μίαν	οὐχὶ	ἄπει	λύχνον	καὶ	σαροῖ	τὴν
piece		doth not	light	a candle	and	sweep	
G1406	G1520	G3780	G681	G3088	G2532	G4563	G3588
οἰκίαν	καὶ	ζητεῖ	ἐπιμελῶς	ἕως	ὅτου	εὕρῃ	
the house	and	seek	diligently	till		she find	
G3614	G2532	G2212	G1960	G2193	G3755	G2147	

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 34:12 (Parallel theme): As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will

deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.

Luke 19:10 (Parallel theme): For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

John 10:16 (Parallel theme): And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

John 11:52 (Parallel theme): And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.

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