

Luke 15:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.

Analysis

And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me (συγκαλεῖ τὰς φίλας καὶ γείτονας, synkalei tas philas kai geitonas)—The verbal and structural parallel to verse 6 is exact, emphasizing the unified message: finding the lost demands communal celebration. The imperative syncharēte (συγχαρήτε, rejoice together) repeats.

For I have found the piece which I had lost (ὅτι εὗρον τὴν δραχμὴν ἣν ἀπώλεσα, hoti heuron tēn drachmēn hēn apōlesa)—She doesn't say 'which fell' but 'which I lost,' accepting responsibility while celebrating recovery. The coin had no agency in being lost or found; it was passive throughout. This intensifies the parable's point: salvation is entirely God's initiative and work. The lost cannot save themselves; they can only be found by the seeking God. The woman's joy mirrors heaven's response to each repentant sinner (v.10).

Historical Context

Women's celebrations in first-century Palestine were gender-segregated. The woman calls her female friends and neighbors, creating an intimate communal rejoicing. This detail shows Jesus's awareness of and respect for women's social networks. The celebration over a found coin might seem excessive to modern readers, but for subsistence-level peasants, recovering 10 percent of one's wealth

was genuinely significant. More importantly, Jesus dignifies domestic female experience as revelatory of divine character.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the coin's passivity—unable to seek, find, or return itself—illuminate the nature of grace as God's initiative rather than human achievement?
2. What does the woman's communal celebration teach about the church's responsibility to rejoice publicly over conversions?
3. In what ways have you experienced being 'found' as a passive recipient of God's diligent search rather than an active seeker who discovered God?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	εὑρον	συγκαλεῖται	τὰς	φίλας	καὶ	τὰς
And	I have found	it she calleth	G3588	her friends	And	G3588
G2532	G2147	G4779		G5384	G2532	
γείτονας	λέγουσα	Συγχαρήτέ	μοι	ὅτι	εὑρον	τὴν
her neighbours	saying	Rejoice	with me	for	I have found	G3588
G1069	G3004	G4796	G3427	G3754	G2147	
δραχμὴν	ἣν	ἀπώλεσα				
the piece	which	I had lost				
G1406	G3739	G622				

