

Summary

In this sermon, the pastor explores the parable of the Lost Coin from Luke 15 to address how people determine their worth. Using a fun price-guessing game as an entry point, the message challenges the common tendency to measure personal value through possessions, abilities, and characteristics. The pastor argues that this approach is flawed because those things are temporary and constantly changing, leaving people feeling empty even when they seem to have it all. Through the story of the woman who loses one of her ten silver coins, the pastor reveals that God places indescribable value on every person. Two key truths emerge from the parable: the search communicates our worth, and the celebration communicates our worth. Just as the woman searched persistently and then threw a party when she found her coin, God sent His Son to seek and save the lost, and heaven rejoices when even one person repents. The sermon closes with a practical reminder that this truth applies not only to ourselves but to every person around us, calling believers to love others the way God loves them.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for bringing us together today. As we open Your Word and discuss what it means to be truly valued by You, we ask that You quiet the noise of the world around us. Help each person in this group to set aside the ways they have measured their own worth and the worth of others, and open our hearts to receive what You want us to hear today. May Your Spirit guide our conversation, draw us closer to You, and remind us of the incredible love You have for every one of us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one item you have lost and then found that made you feel a huge sense of relief when you finally tracked it down?

Key Verses

- Luke 15:8-10
- Luke 19:10
- Romans 5:8

Questions

- The pastor described how the world tends to measure a person's worth through possessions, abilities, and characteristics. In what ways have you personally fallen into this trap of measuring your own value by those standards?
- The Pharisees muttered that Jesus welcomed sinners and ate with them. Have you ever caught yourself looking down on someone because of their lifestyle or choices? What does this parable say to that attitude?
- The woman in the parable lit a lamp, swept the house, and searched carefully until she found her coin. What does the intensity of her search tell us about how God pursues people who are lost?
- Luke 19:10 says that the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. How does knowing that God actively seeks after you personally change the way you see yourself?
- Romans 5:8 tells us that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Why is it significant that God demonstrated His love for us before we had cleaned up our lives or earned anything?
- The pastor said that the coin became priceless because of who it belonged to. How does belonging to God change the way you understand your own identity and worth?
- The sermon challenged us to flip the coin over and remember that God values the people around us too, including difficult people. Who in your life is hardest for you to see as someone God deeply values, and why?
- The pastor noted that loving others the way God loves does not mean we condone sin, but that we speak truth in love. What does that balance look like practically in your relationships and daily interactions?

Life Application

This week, carry something with you, whether it is the wooden coin from the service, a note in your wallet, or a reminder on your phone, that has two simple phrases written on it: 'God values me' on one side and 'God values them' on the other. Each time you look at it, let it redirect your thinking. When you are tempted to measure your worth by what you own, what you can do, or what others think of you, let it remind you of the unchanging love God has for you. And when you encounter someone who is difficult to love or easy to dismiss, let it challenge you to see them the way God does. At the end of the week, reflect on one specific moment when this reminder changed how you responded to yourself or to someone else.

Key Takeaways

- Our culture measures worth through possessions, abilities, and characteristics, but all of those things are temporary and ultimately do not define our true value.
- The parable of the Lost Coin shows that God places indescribable worth on every person, just as the woman placed great value on her lost coin.
- The search communicates our value. God sent His Son to seek and save the lost, proving through the ultimate sacrifice that we are worth pursuing.
- The celebration communicates our value. Heaven rejoices over every single person who repents, showing that no one is insignificant to God.
- Our true worth does not change because it is rooted in the unconditional love of an unchanging God, and we are called to extend that same perspective to every person around us.

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for this time together and for the truth of Your Word that reminds us we are not defined by what we own, what we can do, or what others think of us. Thank You that You loved us enough to seek us out, to send Your Son to pay the ultimate price so that we could be found. Help us to carry that truth with us this week, not just for ourselves but for the people we encounter every day. Give us eyes to see others the way You see them, and give us the courage to love them the way You love us. May our lives reflect the incredible value You have placed on every person made in Your image. In Jesus' name, Amen.