

The Parable of:
The Lost Piece
of
Silver

By William T. Barrett

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The Parable of: “The Lost Piece of Silver”

LUKE 15

8 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*? **9** 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.

Comments:

In this parable a Physical woman has **lost** something of great Physical value to her. She spares nothing in order to recover what she has lost. This parable will then be about a Spiritual woman (church) that has **lost** something of great Spiritual value and must spare no effort until she has recovered what she has lost.

Let's take a moment and think about this parable.

Since the solution to the problem is to use *Physical light* (candle) to search for the lost item, then the parable will be about using *Spiritual light* to find the missing item.

Since the solution to the problem also requires removing *Physical dust* (sweeping), then the parable will be about removing *Spiritual dust* in order to see the missing item.

Since the missing item is a piece of Physical *silver*, then the parable will be about recovering a piece of *Spiritual silver* that has been lost.


Since the piece of Physical silver was lost in the *Physical house*, then the parable will be about a piece of Spiritual silver that has been lost in the *Spiritual house* or Church.

Jesus always reveals **valuable truth** to us in His Parables, but once again it is hidden and can only be understood as we discover the Spiritual meanings of the *Real Objects* used in the parable.


REAL OBJECTS and KEY WORDS

woman, candle light a candle, *darkness
 silver, 10 pc of silver sweep, *dust

Who does the “**woman**” represent ?

Key Word 

WOMAN = ?
 (Pure, dressed in white)



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WOMAN = God’s church
 (Pure) (True Church)

ISA 54:5,6 “Thy Maker is thy husband, the Lord of Hosts is His name. . . the Lord hath called thee, as a woman. . . and a wife. . .”


REV 19:7,8 “. . . the marriage of the Lamb is come and His wife. . . arrayed in fine linen, clean and white. . .”

THE “**WOMAN**” REPRESENTS THE “**CHURCH**”

What does the “**candle**” represent ?

Key Word 

CANDLE = ?



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CANDLE = GODS’ WORD
 (The Bible)


Pg. 119:105
 Thy word is a *candle unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

*Candle = Hebrew word
 Lamp = English word

THE “**CANDLE**” REPRESENTS THE “**BIBLE**” (God’s Word)

What does it mean to “**light**” a candle ?

Key Word 



LIGHT A CANDLE = ?


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LIGHT A CANDLE=Study the Bible to understand truth

Ps. 18:28
28 For thou wilt **light my candle**:
the Lord my God will **enlighten**
my darkness.

TO “*STUDY*” THE “*BIBLE*” (TO UNDERSTAND TRUTH)

What does “**light**” represent ?

Key Word 



LIGHT = ?

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LIGHT=TRUTH

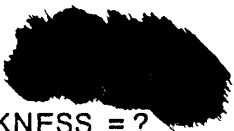
Ps. 43:3 “O send out thy **light**
and thy **truth**....”

John 3:21 “ But he that doeth
truth cometh to the **light**...”

“*LIGHT*” represents “*TRUTH*”

What does “**darkness**” represent ?

Key Word 



DARKNESS = ?
(Evening, night, black, MIDNIGHT)

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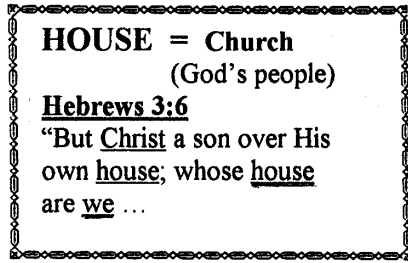
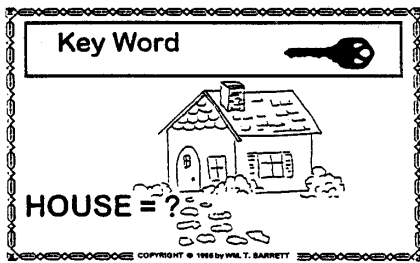
DARKNESS = LACK OF
UNDERSTANDING
(ERROR)

Ps. 82:5 “They **know not**, neither
do they understand, they walk on
in **darkness**....”

MIDNIGHT (Greatest Physical Darkness)
(Greatest Spiritual Darkness) or ERROR)

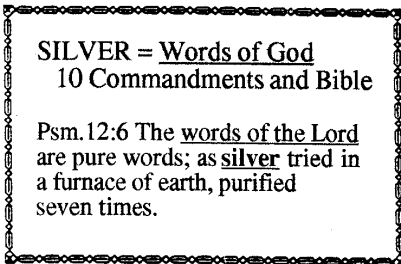
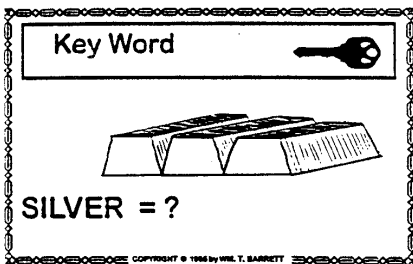
“*DARKNESS*” REPRESENTS “*ERROR*”
(Lack of Understanding)

What does the “**house**” represent ?



THE “**HOUSE**” represents THE “**CHURCH**”

What does the “**silver**” represent ?



THE “**SILVER**” REPRESENTS THE “**WORDS**” OF GOD
(THE BIBLE AND 10 COMMANDMENTS)

What does “**dust**” or “**sand**” or “**clay**” represent?

Job 10:9 “Remember..thou hast made *me* as the **clay**: and wilt thou bring *me* into **dust** again?”

Joshua 11:4 “...much *people*, even as the **sand** upon the seashore.”

“**DUST**” or “**SAND**” or “**CLAY**” REPRESENTS

MAN and the “**WORDS**” of MEN

Now that we know the Spiritual meanings of the Real Objects in the parable, we are ready to substitute those meanings back into the parable so that we can understand the Spiritual meaning of the parable.

We now know that the parable is really about the Church (woman) using the Bible(light) to discover part of God's Words(silver) that she has lost.

In order to discover the missing Words of God the Church must remove(sweep) the words of men(dust) that have been hiding part of God's Words(silver).

The parable also told us that it is the Church(house) itself that is responsible for losing part of God's Words(silver) because of its lack of understanding (darkness).

What we yet need to discover is **what** Words of God are missing? Since "silver" is the object that Jesus used to represent God's missing Words, we need to once again look at the Spiritual meaning of "silver".

Psalms 119:72 "The **law** of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and **silver**."

This Bible verse tells us that God's **Law(10 Com.)** is like **silver**. Now we know why there were **10 pieces of silver** in the parable! 10pieces=10Commandments.

The parable told us that **one** of the pieces of silver was **lost**. Thus, the parable is telling us that **one** of the Commandments of God would be **lost**! Now we need only to examine the 10 Com. to see *which* is **missing**.

The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20 : 3-17)

- (1) 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me 1 ✓ ALL MINISTERS ACCEPT
- (2) 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven 2 ✓ ALL MINISTERS ACCEPT
 image, or any likeness of anything that is in
 heaven above or that is in the earth beneath,
 or that is in the water under the earth.
- 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them or
 serve them : for I the Lord thy God am a
 jealous God...
- (3) 7 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy 3 ✓ ALL MINISTERS ACCEPT
 God in vain for the Lord will not hold him
 guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
- (4) 8 Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy 4 MOST MINISTERS
 9 Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work DO NOT ACCEPT THE
 10 But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the 7TH DAY SABBATH
 Lord thy God : in it thou shalt not do any
 work. Thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter,
 nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant,
 nor thy cattle, that is within thy gates.
- 11 For in six days the Lord made heaven and
earth, the sea and all that in them is, and
rested the seventh day wherefore the Lord
 blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.
- (5) 12 Honor thy father and thy mother : that thy 5 ✓ ALL MINISTERS ACCEPT
 days may be long upon the land which the
 Lord thy God giveth thee.
- (6) 13 Thou shalt not kill 6 ✓ ALL MINISTERS ACCEPT
- (7) 14 Thou shalt not commit adultery 7 ✓ ALL MINISTERS ACCEPT
- (8) 15 Thou shalt not steal 8 ✓ ALL MINISTERS ACCEPT
- (9) 16 Thou shalt not bear false witness 9 ✓ ALL MINISTERS ACCEPT
 against thy neighbor
- (10) 17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's 10 ✓ ALL MINISTERS ACCEPT
 house, thou shalt not covet thy
 neighbor's wife, nor his manservant
 nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor
 his ass, nor anything that is thy
 neighbor's

It is clear as we examine the 10 Commandments that the **one Law** or one Commandment that has been “**Lost**” is the **4th Commandment** which specifies which day that God says we are to worship him on.

Men's words(dust) have hidden God's Words(silver) and the Church has replaced the command of God to keep the 7th day(Saturday) holy with a command of men to keep the 1st day(Sunday) holy.

History tells us exactly how and when this change was made by the Church.

THE AMERICAN CATHOLIC QUARTERLY REVIEW
Volume VIII
FROM JANUARY to OCTOBER, 1883
THE OBSERVANCE OF SUNDAY AND CIVIL LAWS
FOR ITS ENFORCEMENT. 139

“The **Sunday**, as a day of the week set apart for the obligatory public worship of Almighty God ; to be sanctified by a suspension of all servile labor, trade, and worldly avocations and by exercises of devotion, is **purely a creation of the Catholic Church.**”

“The Council of Laodicea, in 364 A.D. defines : “That *Christians must not Judaize and refrain from manual labor on Saturday, but work on that day ; and that, preferring the Lord’s day, they must then rest, if this can be done, as becomes Christians*”.

“The **Church** thus began by **calling her children** to **sanctify** the **first day** of the week, that on which God the Son rose from the dead, that, on which God the Father began the creation of the world, and God the Holy Ghost descended on the Apostles. **Constantine** lent the **power of the state** to **enforce** the **regulations** of the **Church**, and the *civil law* began to **enforce** the **spiritual decrees**. **He commanded** the **Lord’s day** to be **observed by all** as a festival and **day of rest.**”

Thus, we see from this historical document exactly how the change of worship days was made. Once the change was made, the churches have continued to promote the keeping of Sunday because it has become a “tradition of men” even though it cannot be solidly defended from the Bible.

The question now is “Can we still honor God by worshiping Him on another day than the day that He has specified that we should worship Him on?”

Let’s take one last look at the 10 Commandments and see if we can answer this question.

The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20 : 3-17)

(1) “Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”

This commandment is very plain. We are not to commit idolatry by worshipping another god.

(2) “ Thou shalt **not make** unto thee any **graven image**, or **any likeness** of anything that is in heaven above or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth...”

This commandment is not as plain. Lets see what the Bible means by “**graven image**” by looking in the Concordance for other Bible texts using this word.

Exodus 32: 15,16 “And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the *two tables of testimony* were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides: on the one side and on the other side where they written. And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, **graven** upon the tables.”

The 2nd Commandment told us:

(2) “ Thou shalt **not make** unto thee any **graven image**, or **any likeness** of anything that is in heaven above or that is in the earth beneath,..”

An “**image**” is something made in the likeness of something else. The 4th Com. “**graven**” on tables of stone by God, specifies worship on the 7th **day**(Saturday). The Church has made an “**image**” or “likeness” of God’s Com. by specifying worship on the 1st **day**(Sunday) and enforced its “commandment” by Civil law.

By worshipping on **any other day** than what God has specified in the 4th Commandment, the Church *causes* people to commit IDOLATRY because they are worshipping an “**image**” of God’s Commandment which has been “**graven**” by man!!

Clearly, we have the answer to our question of ;
“Can we still honor God by worshipping Him on another day than the day that He has specified that we should worship Him on?”

Jesus addressed the Church leaders of His day with a question.

“Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother...But ye say, “Whosoever shall say..honour not his father and mother, he shall be free.” Thus have ye made the commandment of God of of none effect by your tradition. ...But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.” Matthew 15:3-9

Now we see why Jesus has repeatedly warned us in his parables to base all our beliefs on **God’s Words** instead of **men’s words**. The last *blessing* of Jesus in the Bible is found in the last chapter of the Bible as He blesses commandment keepers. Rev. 22: 14-16 “**Blessed** are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerors, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. **I Jesus** have sent my angel to testify these things in the churches..”

Now it is time for our **final Paraphrase** of the Parable.

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8 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*? **9** 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.

Paraphrase:

What Church(woman) having the **10 Com.**(10 pc /silver), if the Church(she) loses 1 Com.(1 pc), does not study the Bible(light a candle) and remove the teachings of men(sweep away dust) from the Church(house) and seek diligently until the Church(she) **finds the lost Com.**(it)?

And when the Church(she) has found the lost Com.(it), the Church(she) calls her friends and her neighbors together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have **found** the **4th Commandment** which I had lost.

Summary:

We have seen how Jesus in the Parable of “The Lost Piece of Silver” has **warned us** that the “Church” would **lose one of the Commandments** and history has verified that it happened just as Jesus said it would.

The “**Good News**” is that in the same Parable, Jesus has also told us that the “woman” would **find the lost pc** of silver!! Thus Jesus has told us that **His People** would re-discover the **4th Commandment** and in turn would re-discover the **7th day Sabbath Truth!!**