

The Lost Coin

“Look at that!” said one of the Pharisees, annoyed. “See how Jesus allows these tax collectors and sinners to gather around him? This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

“How terrible!” said a scribe angrily.

Another Pharisee said, “If he really were a prophet or the Messiah, he would have nothing to do with such despicable people.”

Jesus listened. He wanted to help them understand that he doesn’t reject anyone and so he shared this parable:

“Suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?”

The people thought, “It would be very sad to lose a coin of that value.”

“I wonder if she planned to put it on a string with ten coins before marrying,” another said.

(It was customary for women to wear a chain with ten coins on their head when they got married.)

“I hope to never lose a coin like that!” thought another.

“And when she finds it” Jesus continued, *“she calls her friends and*

neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’”

People could imagine friends and neighbors happily celebrating with her.

Jesus looked at the angry scribes and Pharisees and said, *“In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*

