

A TALE OF TWO COINS - THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCTION

- A. Coins are mentioned several times in the New Testament, one is a parable and the other is a miracle.
1. The Parable of the Lost Coin, Luke 15:8-10, *Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? 9 And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.*
 - This parable teaches not about the importance of money but sinners.
 - The angels of God rejoice when a sinner repents.
 2. The Coin Found in the Fish, Matthew 17:24-27, *When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax went up to Peter and said, "Does your teacher not pay the tax?" 25 He said, "Yes." And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tax? From their sons or from others?" 26 And when he said, "From others," Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. 27 However, not to give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for me and for yourself."*
 - The only coin accepted for the yearly Temple tax was minted from a Roman coin.
 - It was illegal for any country controlled by Rome to mint coins except for this Temple tax coin.
 - Jesus took opportunity to instruct Peter as to Who Jesus is and that He did not intend to take issue with those who were looking for reasons to condemn Him before His trial and crucifixion.
- B. Today, we are going to look at two more coins.
- Each is 2-sided like all other coins.
 - One is minted in heaven and the other on earth.
 - One has great value here and in heaven but the other has no lasting value.
 - One is worth searching for but the other is self-destructive yet most people prefer that coin.

AN EXAMINATION OF EACH COIN

- A. The heavenly coin
1. The first side is grace.
 - a. The simplest definition of grace is unmerited favor, that which is received at no cost and undeserved.
 - b. The focus of this coin is eternal life given by God as an undeserved gift.
 - c. Key Scripture verses on grace.
 - Romans 3:23-24, *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,*
 - Romans 11:6, *But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.*
 - 2 Corinthians 8:9, *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*
 - d. Comments on grace
 - John Stott, *Christianity alone is a religion of grace, of [the] initiative of God who comes in Christ to seek and save the lost.*
 - Charles Spurgeon, *Grace puts its hand on the boasting mouth, and shuts it once for all.*
 - Tim Hansel, *Grace is the central invitation to life and the final word. It's the beckoning nudge and the overwhelming, undeserved mercy that urges us to change and grow, and then gives us the power to pull it off.*
 - Augustus Toplady (1740-1778) who wrote *Rock of Ages*, *The business of grace is to lift us from the dust, to settle us upon Christ the rock of ages, to put a new song of free salvation into our mouths, and to order our goings in the path of God's commandments.*
 - Jerry Bridges, *We are saved by grace and we are to live by grace alone.*

2. The second side is faith.
 - a. Another word for faith is trust placed solely in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
 - b. Faith is the step taken to receive God's grace.
 - c. Key Scripture verses on faith.
 - Romans 5:1, *Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
 - Romans 10:17, *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*
 - 1 Peter 1:8-9, *Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*
 - d. Comments on faith
 - Augustine (354-430), *Faith is to believe what we do not see; and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe.*
 - Arthur Benoni Evans (1781-1854), *Faith is not a sense, nor sight, nor reason, but taking God at His Word.*
 - William Stoughton (1631-1701), *Faith does nothing alone - nothing of itself, but everything under God, by God, through God.*
 - Samuel Shoemaker, *Eternal life does not begin with death; it begins with faith.*
 - Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892), *It will not save me to know that Christ is a Savior; but it will save me to trust him to be my Savior . . . Little faith will bring your soul to heaven; great faith will bring heaven to your soul.*
3. The coin composed of grace and faith is invaluable.
 - a. Another name for this coin is the Gospel.
 - b. The combination of God's grace received by faith in Christ alone grants eternal life, forgiveness of sins, adoption into the family of God.
 - c. Key Scripture verses
 - Ephesians 2:8-9, *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*
 - Romans 5:2, *Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*
 - 1 Timothy 1:14, *and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.*
 - 1 Corinthians 15:1, 3-4, *Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand ... For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,*
 - d. Comments on the Gospel
 - Martin Luther (1483-1546), *The gospel is like a fresh, mild, and cool air in the extreme heat of summer, a solace and comfort in the anguish of the conscience.*
 - Oswald Chambers (1874-1917), *... the only man who finds the gospel attractive is the man who is convicted of sin.*
 - Susanna Wesley (1669-1742), *There are two things to do about the gospel - believe it and behave it.*
 - Jerry Bridges, *To preach the gospel to yourself, then, means that you continually face up to your own sinfulness and then flee to Jesus through faith in His shed blood and righteous life.*

B. The earthly coin

1. The focus of this coin is eternal life earned by man.
2. The first side is grace misunderstood.
3. The second side is works or human effort which has no eternal value.
4. Key verses on human effort or works.
 - Galatians 2:16, *yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ ... because by works of the law no one will be justified.*
 - Romans 11:6, *6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.*
 - Philippians 2:13, *for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

5. Comments concerning works

- Augustine (354-430), *for grace is given not because we have done good works, but in order that we may able to do them.*
- Cyril of Jerusalem (313-386), *Those who think they can test God's grace deceive themselves.*
- Jerry Bridges, *We need to continue to hear the gospel every day of our Christian lives.*

CONCLUSION

- Jerry Bridges, *The gospel is not only the most important message in all of history; it is the only essential message in all of history. Yet we allow thousands of professing Christians to live their entire lives without clearly understanding it and experiencing the joy of living by it.*
- It was recorded that Charles Spurgeon stepped into the pulpit and made a silent prayer, *God be merciful to me a sinner,* Luke 18:13.
- Mutua Mahiaini, *One who draws on God's mercy and grace is quick to repent, but also slow to sin.*
- May we who possess the heavenly coin: know the Gospel, live the Gospel and proclaim the Gospel.