A TALE OF TWO COINS

INTRODUCTION

Coins are mentioned several times in the New Testament, one is a parable and the other is a miracle.

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 the value of human lives.
- The angels of God rejoice when a sinner repents.

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 He is and that He chose to be under authority.

Today, we are going to look at two more coins.

- Each is 2-sided like all other coins.
- One is minted by the world and the other in Heaven.
- One is worth searching for but the other is self-destructive yet most people prefer that coin.

AN EXAMINATION OF TWO COINS

A. The worldly coin

1. The first side is self-righteousness
   - It believes that man can gain favor through human effort.
   - It is the *me can do* mentality.
   - Scripture verses on self-righteousness:
     Titus 3:5, *he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,*
     1 Corinthians 10:12, *Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.*

   - Comments concerning self-righteousness:
     J. C. Ryle, *Never are men's hearts in such a hopeless condition as when they are not sensible of their own sins.*
     Queen Elizabeth I, *They are most deceived that trust the most in themselves.*
     Jonathan Edwards, *If there be ground for you to trust in your own righteousness, then all that Christ did to purchase salvation, and all that God did to prepare the way for it, is in vain.*

2. The second side is works
   - The focus of this coin is the attempt by man to earn salvation.
   - It is human effort which has no eternal value.
   - Scripture 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.*
     Philippians 2:13, *for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

   - Comments concerning works:
     Oswald Chambers, *The satanically managed man is moral, upright, proud, and individual; he is absolutely self-governed and has no need of God.*
     Augustine (354-430), *for grace is given not because we have done good works, but in order that we may able to do them.*
     Anonymous, *All the world is a hospital and everyone in it is a terminal patient.*

B. The heavenly coin
   1. The first side is grace.
      - The simplest definition of grace is unmerited favor, that which is received at no cost and undeserved.
      - The focus of this coin is eternal life given by God as an undeserved gift.
      - 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.*
        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.*

      - Comments on grace:
        John Newton, *I am not what I might be, I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I wish to be, I am not what I hope to be; but I thank God I am not what I once was.*
        Charles Spurgeon, *Grace puts its hand on the boasting mouth, and shuts it once for all.*
        D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *The ultimate test of our spirituality is the measure of our amazement at the grace of God.*

   2. The second side is faith.
      - Another word for faith is trust placed solely in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
      - Faith is the step taken to receive God's grace.
      - 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.*

      - Comments on 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.*
        John Blanchard. *Grace is not a reward for faith; faith is the result of grace.*
        Faith is not the price of salvation, but gives access to salvation. God's grace through Jesus Christ is the means of salvation.

   3. The coin composed of grace and faith is invaluable.
      - Another name for this coin is the Gospel.
      - The combination of God's grace received by faith in Christ alone grants eternal life, forgiveness of sins, adoption into the family of God.
      - Scripture verses on the Gospel:
        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.*
        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,*

      - Comments on the Gospel
        Oswald Chambers (1874-1917), *... the only man who finds the gospel attractive is the man who is convicted of sin.*
        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 ... We need to continue to hear the gospel every day of our Christian lives.*

CONCLUSION

- Susanna Wesley (1669-1742), *There are two things to do about the gospel - believe it and behave it.*
- May we who possess the heavenly coin: know the Gospel, live the Gospel and proclaim the Gospel.