

RIVERBANK NEWS

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PARABLE OF THE LOST COINS

By Gordon F. Nelson

"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? And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbors together, saying, Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I had lost." Luke 15:8-9.

In this 15th chapter of Luke, this story of the lost coin is sandwiched in between the story of the lost sheep, "leaving the ninety and nine", the lost sinner that repenteth causing joy among the angels, and finally a father over his lost son, "the prodigal".

Brother William Branham would tell the church exactly how the next move of God would take place. Oh, the church, how she despises a word of authority! Brother Branham, in his humble manner, would declare, "Exactly as God has moved in the past, He will move in the future." Listen, my friend, to the voice of history! Just how has God moved in the past?

Do you know what the "Dark Ages" represent? The answer: the light of the Gospel had been completely put out! Mankind succumbed to the Roman Pontiffs as "Vicars of Christ" upon the earth. On "morals and doctrine" their word was infallible.

The Bible says, *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."* Romans 8:14. It was Martin Luther who declared, "God doesn't lead me, He shoves me." It was while visiting in Rome, praying on the very steps Jesus climbed to confront Pilate, Luther prayed a separate prayer on each step (type of Rosary, praying over each bead a special prayer). As he was about to commence his 14th prayer, on the 14th step, God's spoke to him through God's Word. God's voice is always for the purpose of further enlightenment of God's Word. "Stand on your feet Martin Luther, for The just shall live by faith."

"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:17. This scripture had been nothing but the "dead letter", locked in Holy Writ. *"For the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."* 2 Corinthians 3:6. Until the Spirit of God breathes upon the word, it is dead. It is the Spirit that quickeneth.

God used this Catholic monk to unveil that which was locked to the minds of man. At midnight, a candle lit on a clear night can be seen for miles. The Dark Ages was certainly a midnight hour, spiritually, over all the earth. God had lit the candle of Martin Luther's spirit to shine forth the Reformation.

Martin Luther is a type of this woman seeking the lost coin. He exclaimed, "Rejoice with me, for I have found that which was lost"; "the just shall live by faith!"

It was never in the heart of Martin Luther to break from the Catholic (universal) Church and form an organization. That is always man that tries to put revival in a box. Peter was caught in such a revival atop the mountain of transfiguration. *“Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make three tabernacles: one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”* Matthew 17:4. That spirit to commemorate a visitation never ceases until the present hour to “build our tabernacles.”

Lutheranism was not an end in itself, only a beginning. This is what is lost sight of when you become so involved in tabernacles, or organizational building. “As God moved in the past, is how He will move in the future.”

If we really go to the past, we see how God led the children of Israel. *“And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light.”* Exodus 13:21. The children of Israel did not move until either the cloud or the pillar of fire moved.

Brother William Branham would then ask the question, “When the pillar of a cloud moved again, would the Lutherans and their tabernacles be able to move with God?” Man seems to forget this: God is alive! He will move again! This you must believe! He seems to always move when man has exhausted himself in the traditions of the tabernacles. It is always at midnight, so that at the darkest hour just a “candle of truth” can be seen for a long distance.

“Justification by faith” is just one coin that Martin Luther found. Lutherans, Presbyterians, Moody Bible Institute, Dallas Theological Seminary accept this coin as the entire “necklace” worn by this Jewish woman.

The Jewish engagement is about as binding as marriage. Only proof of “lost chastity” could break the betrothal vows. It is the father that gives this very costly necklace as evidence that his daughter is a virgin. Tradition has the father of the daughter to pick up the complete tab in giving away the daughter. The roots of this practice stem from the Jewish betrothal arrangements. Sometimes, we wonder where such practice began. Why should I pay to give my daughter away? You are not only to pay, but furnish the proof you are giving a virgin!

For marriage to succeed, the Jews believed virginity on the part of the female was a necessary ingredient. The Jewish honeymoon lasted for one year. A Jewish soldier was dismissed from the army, with pay, to make love. The making of love to a virgin bride was held essential! It was more important than fighting--a way to make the family. Unless a family can hold, you have no church.

In the present female dominated home, few daughters escape with their virginity still intact. The female dominated wimp soon acts the part to prove his own masculinity.

The Bible calls the husband “the saviour of the body”. *“For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands IN EVERYTHING.”* Ephesians 5:23-24. This is when preachers start screaming for their Amplified version, or some other version of the Bible! They get out their hermeneutics to confuse the issue, blaming the husbands.

If the church produced virgin women as brides, and they were obedient as a daughter of Sarah, it would be much easier for the male “to love a woman as Christ loved the church”. The church expects a man to love a woman to that degree, who first gave her virginity (unknown to him) to another.

Society had no such problem in marriage until the invention of “the pill”. Women are supposed to be the leader in the realm of morality. I married as a virgin at the age of 27. This was not to my credit, because I lived in the “pre-pill” generation. Women simply said, “No”.

Admittedly, men are the weaker vessel when it comes to sex. God made it that way. The difference between this generation and the one I grew up in is that today there are no “No’s”. In spite of Clint Eastwood films, you can’t build a home marrying a whore. This safe sex needs to be turned into “no sex”, or else live the life of a whoremonger and go to hell. *“For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.”* Revelation 22:15.

As the church today, we are not even betrothed until we accept the “earnest of the Spirit” sent to earth on the Day of Pentecost. *“Who hath also sealed us, and given us the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”* 2 Corinthians 1:22. *“Who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.”* 2 Corinthians 5:5. *“AFTER that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest* (Heb. pledge, i.e., part of the purchase money or property given in advance as security for the rest) *of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession.”* Ephesians 1:14.

Our “purchased possession” is a mansion in glory. *“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.”* John 14:2.

“If ye love me keep my commandments!” Commandments - you are still under the law. *“Repent, be baptized, receive the Holy Ghost.”* Acts 2:38. These are the commandments. *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.”* Mark 16:16. *“And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you ANOTHER Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for He DWELLETH WITH YOU* (at conversion), *and shall be IN YOU* (baptized into the Holy Ghost).” John 14:16-17.

You are still under the law, obeying commandments, until you enter into rest. The rest is grace, whereby we *“cease from our own works”*. Hebrews 4:10. The church lives in the fast lane, handing out instant salvation, instant prosperity, instant mind over matter (positive confession). The Bible teaches no such bogus doctrine.

First off, the book says, *“Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest.”* Hebrews 4:11. Make it a goal, after your conversion, but you haven’t received until you laboured. It is labour for some folk to give up sprinkling and get baptized by immersion like our Lord. We go into a watery grave by commandment, so we should rise *“in newness of life.”* Romans 6:4. You have not yet entered into grace, but are still under commandment, *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.”* Mark 16:16. It is not an option.

Further proof we are still under “commandment” is in Galatians 4:2, *“But is under tutors (the law) and governors (teachers of the law) until the time appointed of the father.”* The time appointed of the father is when you are accepted by the Father. He gives you the Comforter to now lead you. *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth...and he will shew things to come.”* John 16:13. Until the Comforter comes, you are still under the law.

At this Jewish woman’s wedding, she will parade this beautiful necklace consisting of ten pieces of silver. The number “ten” signifies complete. The ten commandments represent the complete law. To have one piece missing would be apparent to all attending this Jewish wedding. Her father who presented the necklace as a guarantee of her virginity, would be particularly embarrassed. She is only seeking acceptance from the father of the bridegroom. He will question the validity of her chastity, and will call the wedding off. The son will stand by the ultimate decision made by his father.

The Apostle Paul said, *“For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”* 2 Corinthians 11:2. Perhaps, the Apostle Paul will be the best man! Anyway, we better get “the love of this world” out of our hearts before the wedding. *“Purify your hearts, ye double minded.”* James 4:8. *“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”* James 4:4.

“Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together.” Matthew 1:18. Mary and Joseph were not married. They were engaged, or betrothed “before they came together” for sex. During their betrothal, Mary became pregnant. Joseph will not marry her. The woman who lost her piece of silver may as well have been pregnant; for all intents and purposes. No one will believe she is a “chaste virgin” unless she can recover that coin. She must be approved by the father of the bridegroom if this wedding is to materialize.

Only an angel could have convinced Joseph that Mary was a virgin. *“But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.”* Matthew 1:20. Mary would have been stoned until dead, and made a public example as a warning for other Jewish women. But, *“Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example (by stoning in the market place), was minded to put her away privily (privately: to prevent her being stoned).”* Matthew 1:19.

Talk about a “lost coin”; the church, due to their “hireling” and “lord” type governments have chosen Washington, D.C.’s solution to “divorce and remarriage”, rather than the scripture. Scripturally, the party committing adultery is the guilty party for killing the marriage. It is the church’s duty to declare the guilty party dead. The guiltless is bound to her husband until dead, or declared dead. *“The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.”* 1 Corinthians 7:39.

The church, in its present state, is incapable of establishing a guilty party. As with “no fault” car insurance, the church chooses the easy way out; declaring all participants guilty. But, God declares,

“Judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?” 1 Peter 4:17.

To judge anything is not showing “love”, so the church refuses to judge Larry Lea, W.V. Grant and Robert Tilton. Diane Sawyer and Sam Donaldson of Prime Time TV did judge, because we refused! And God says, *“But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.”* 1 Corinthians 11:32. Christian Research Institute (CRI) is driven as though possessed to chasten these “Holy Rollers”. God says the “Rollers” are being “chastened of the Lord”, until they roll “Holy”. *“For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.”* 1 Corinthians 11:31.

Diane Sawyer of Prime Time was doing the work of an Apostle, because the church doesn’t have any. *“His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark... Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they ALL look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter. Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine (worked up joy with music), and we will fill ourselves with strong drink (Holy Roller meeting); and tomorrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant.”* Isaiah 56:10-12.

No Pentecostal preacher will bark, “The church in scripture is not a dictatorship!” They continue to seek “their own kingdom”, hence no governments, hence no judgment.

The Catholic Church has a much better grasp on marriage and divorce than the Protestants. The “binding and loosening” powers granted Peter was not to cast out devils, but deal proper judgment, particularly in the area of divorce and remarriage. One is “loosed” to marry again, while the guilty is bound to forever remain single. (If they are to remain in the church.)

In Catholicism, you are living in adultery unless married by the priest. The dissolving of a marriage is not left to the courts to decide either. Marriage is a Christian sacrament, along with Holy Communion and water baptism. The church better grow up. We are the salt that has completely *“lost its savour.”* Matthew 5:13.

Please read the entire 23rd chapter of Jeremiah. The preachers will request you read the 23rd Psalm, instead, but God says, *“I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.”* Jeremiah 23:21-22. Don’t you love it?! And then Jeremiah puts the frosting on the cake by adding these words, *“in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly.”* You see brethren, it has to start with the clergy. What will it take? Prime Time TV’s Sam Donaldson and Diane Sawyer are reporting on our own Pat Robertson. Would you believe Pat Robertson, according to this television report, converted \$168,000 into \$680 million. This is better than Jesus’ miracle of “five loaves and two fishes” (Matt. 14:17), and they wanted to make him a king!

When will the church start financing the local assembly instead of sending its money to the “birds of the air”. God’s method of evangelizing is the local church. *“For this cause (Titus) lift I thee in Crete,*

that thou shouldest SET IN ORDER the things that are WANTING (Gr. destitute, lack), and ordain ELDERS (Gr. presbuteros) in every city, as I had appointed thee” to establish the church. Titus 1:5.

The thing that is “wanting” is that these “one man shows” are over! Finis! Until the church can come to this realization, we are left as the children of Israel, still wandering in the wilderness. The prince of darkness is a one man show. He literally “comes in his own name”. Whenever you can accept a Harold Camping as a Moses dishing out judgment every night on his Open Forum telecast, you are being conditioned for the “prince of Rome” who will come on cable television as a loner, giving his judgments. God says you won’t know the difference in the judgment. *“And all the world wondered after the beast.”* Revelation 13:3.

“Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.” John 15:20. The RIVERBANK NEWS stands on this scripture. Jesus gives a great promise to those daring to proclaim “The Word” at this late hour.

“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed...work out your salvation with fear and trembling.” Philippians 2:12.

It was time for this Jewish woman to go to work. God did not lose her coin. If she were to be accepted, she had better go to work searching the entire house, even if it meant all night.

She begins by lighting a candle. The lighting of your candle is not the end, but just the beginning of your labour. *“For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.”* Psalm 18:28. When we are first “born again”, our eyes are opened to SEE. *“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God.”* Acts. 26:18. To teach a baby convert they now “have it all”, is about as damnable a heresy that could ever be purported upon the church. *“The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD.”* Proverbs 20:27. At the new birth, your candle was lit, so now you can see that there really is not only a kingdom of God, but Satan has one as well.

Martin Luther’s Reformation became all bogged down in Calvinism. The light that lit the candle, “the just shall live by faith”, had gone out! John Calvin’s unconditional predestined salvation ended with the world in as great a darkness as the original Dark Ages.

It is at such a moment, the cloud by day began to move under the anointed preaching of George Whitfield, and the pillar of fire was seen by John and Charles Wesley. Methodism moved on without the Lutherans. Why? The Lutherans had built a tabernacle in honor of their leader, Martin Luther. The Lutherans could not see God beyond the creeds and dogmas as laid down by Martin Luther.

In our present religious society, we see how different Christian Research Institute is under Hendrik “Hank” Hanegraaff than it was under its founder, Walter Martin. In one generation, from exorcism to exorcists! In attempting to imitate Walter Martin, Hank Hanegraaff (and CRI), by comparison, is like a *“certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists.”* Acts 19:13. One begins to wonder if the “Fourth Reich” isn’t spitting out judgment upon all who don’t conform to Scofield’s catechism and the dispensational truths as laid down by Charles Larkin’s charts.

Hanegraaff has forgotten that God is alive! “He will move exactly as He has moved in the past.” Hanegraaff has probably lived in another lifetime; back in the days of John Calvin. One could believe it, the way he is lashing out at every “tongue talker” today. There is no way Hanegraaff can win. Why? He is fighting against the church of the “open door”. Hanegraaff should give up if he can read, *“he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth.”* Revelation 3:7.

What was shut forever was the teaching of John Calvin, that completely locked God in a box. Charles Wesley was given the “key of David”, putting to music thousands of songs. God is greater than a box! That is what Hank Hanegraaff and the positive confession fold have yet to learn!

Over a period of time, the Methodists became bogged down in their own methods. Whenever this happens, God’s “cloud by day and pillar of fire” move on! Strangely, it moves on without Methodists or Lutherans.

In 1905, in a Topeka, Kansas holiness Bible college, God supernaturally visited students seeking the Lord in a prayer meeting. The Pentecostal revival, void of any outstanding personage, was born! William Seymour was the leading spokesman.

William Branham prophesies the “cloud by day and the pillar of fire” will move once again! As in the revivals of the past, it will move without the presence of Pentecostals. Why? Because they have done exactly the same thing that the Lutherans and Methodists did with their visitation. “Speaking in an unknown tongue” was always in the Bible. But the revelation that it was for us, is what caused the cloud to move. Searching for a “lost coin”, a revival was born.

The church should be busy searching the house (66 books and 40 authors) for the lost coin. Someone will find it, locked in Holy Writ, and scream, *“Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.”* Luke 15:9.

If man hadn’t built his tabernacles, the Lutherans could have moved on into the Methodist revival. Then, both the Lutherans and the Methodists could have been a part of the Pentecostal outpouring. “As God has moved in the past, so he will move in the future.” What truth is already in the Word of God that the Pentecostals of today could never buy? They will die in the wilderness. *“Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”* 1 Corinthians 10:11-12.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-12, *“And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.”*

Can Hank Hanegraaff read? No one, except Joshua and Caleb had unconditional eternal security. All the rest died in the wilderness, and their children went over.

This RIVERBANK NEWS won’t make much sense to a Hendrik Hanegraaff, or a tabernacle Pentecostal worshipper, but I am amazed how the youth respect the teaching. They already suspect the salt has lost its savor, and therefore good for nothing except to be trampled under the foot of man.

“For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end; while it is said, Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation...But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his REST, but to them that believed not.” Hebrews 3:14-18.

The “rest” spoken of in scripture was the crossing over the River Jordan. Or, first being baptized in water, and then entering the Promised Land. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is a type of the Promised Land. We are commanded to *“labour therefore to enter into that rest.”* Hebrews 4:11. *“And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?”* Hebrews 3:18. There are only two resurrections. You determine which one you will be in by whether or not you entered into rest. It is not enough to just say “Lord, Lord!” The devils believe and tremble! You must enter.

To many, the “rest” is their lost coin. In Isaiah 28, God gives us the definition of this rest. *“For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: YET THEY WOULD NOT HEAR.”* Isaiah 28:11,12.

The Jewish woman would not give up until she found her lost coin, and neither should you, until you have entered into rest. Then, you are in grace, and are “free from the demands of the law.” *“For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of ANOTHER DAY...For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.”* Hebrews 4:8,10.