



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

September 13, 2020

P.O. Box 416
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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

Minister:

Todd Houston

Secretary:

Susan Chandler

Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
~~Worship Service 6 pm~~

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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You're Going To Fake It After All

In his youth, the grandson of John Philip Sousa made large sums of money as a guest bandleader. He knew it wasn't because of his talent. Since he shared the same name as the great American composer and conductor, he knew that is what impressed the crowds. His invites were about his name not his abilities. He knew this because he could not read a single note of sheet music.

He wasn't the first or the last person to lean on their heritage rather than their abilities. Just because you carry a name, however, doesn't mean you are the real thing.

Lots of people call themselves Christian. Lots of people claim a heritage with the Lord. But that claim isn't what will get us a place in the kingdom, it is what we do.

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in Heaven will enter” (Matthew 7:21).

The crowds may cheer for us. The funds may come rolling in. But the true name bearers of Jesus Christ aren't found by those things. They are found in those that do His will. The ones that are keeping His commandments, not just faking their way through it.

Fakes will be found out in the end. He will know or not know us not by the name we claim but the life we live.

Barry Haynes

Seeking the Lost Coins

During the reign of Oliver Cromwell, the British government began to run low on silver for coins. Cromwell sent his men on an investigation of the local cathedrals to see if they could find any precious metals there. After the investigation they reported: "The only silver we could find is in the statues of the saints standing in the corners." Cromwell replied, "Good we'll melt down the saints and put them into circulation!"

Do we as saints today need to be put into circulation? In **Luke 15:8-10** Jesus tells the parable of a woman who lost a coin. One Bible Scholar explains, "In Jesus' time, unmarried women wore head bands to hold their scarves in place. A scarf could be pulled over the face if modesty was required or pulled back up over the hair if work was being done. The headband of an unmarried woman had nine coins, part of the woman's dowry. At the time of marriage, a tenth coin was stitched to the band. This was a sign to the world that the woman was married. A woman who "lost a coin" had, in essence, lost her identity as a married woman." Now if a woman's husband died, these coins would be valuable for the woman to help support herself financially.

In the case of the parable, the woman lost one of her coins; the coin was not lost through its own mistake but probably by the woman's neglect. For whatever reasons, the coin was lost, it was out of circulation and was not being used for anything, just sitting in a dusty corner somewhere.

Sometimes people are lost like this coin; they get neglected, maybe it is because of age, handicap, a move to a new city, or many other reasons. When people are out of circulation, they offer no service to anyone. They cannot be used for good or for God's glory.

Jesus' point in telling this parable is that we need to search and seek for those people who have been neglected. We must remember that each human being is made in the image of God; they have value and need the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We as Christians must pay attention and care for people. Jesus does not want us to be blind to people as the Pharisees were, but search for the lost as this woman searched for her lost coin.

Do you know someone who is a lost coin? The college student who doesn't have friends and is searching for meaning and purpose in life. What about the person who visited worship services, who wants to know more about the Bible? What about the person who is homebound and never receives a visit? Or the person who has lost their job, and hope and has turned to drugs and alcohol?

These are just the few of the many lost coins in our society. We as Saints need to get into "circulation" so the lost coins will be found. Will we look for those who are lost and bring them to the Lord as the woman looked for her lost coin?

Mark T. Tonkery