



Searchlight

Sing or read “O Christ, Our True and Only Light”, LSB 839

“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? 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.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15:8-10 ESV)

A searchlight, according to Webster’s Dictionary, is an apparatus that projects a strong beam of light. Most commonly, searchlights are used to find people who are lost. Dangerous caves, abandoned mine shafts, even the darkness of night are places where people are lost and the powerful beam of a searchlight is needed to locate them.

There are many other kinds of searchlights. Like a flashlight, some can be used in small places. Some are larger and more like lanterns, and then of course more elaborate ones are used in lighthouses, on patrol boats, or by the police.

In the parable of the lost coin, Jesus tells us of a woman who uses her lamp as her searchlight. She has a lost coin and needs to find it. Why does she spend so much time looking for one coin? After all, she has nine others. Why does she undertake such a difficult task? Many Middle Eastern houses at the time of Jesus frequently had no windows, floors made of packed earth, and very limited lighting. This woman had only a lamp, not a fancy searchlight, yet still she searches for this coin worth about one day’s wages.

Like that woman, we also search for items of importance. But we can’t do it alone; we need a lamp or a searchlight to help us.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is that searchlight. He continues to search us out, providing His Word to guide us through each day. He shows the way we must go, and He helps us when we stumble or lose our way. He searches for others who do not know Him and His salvation.

In addition, He asks us to be His searchlights on earth. He uses us to reach those who do not know Him, and He helps us reflect His light so others can come to know Him as Lord and Savior.

We don't have to go far from home to begin searching. The Lord has put us in mission fields right in our own neighborhood – maybe even within our own family. God gives us His Spirit, His Word, and His promise to be with us as we search for the lost.

Our job as searchlights is never finished. Once the lost are found, we need to do as the woman in the parable did. We call friends and neighbors together to help us rejoice that the lost has been found. So it is when an unbeliever repents and is baptized. Together with our Lord and the angels in heaven, we rejoice!

Prayer: Lord, thank you for being our searchlight. Every day we need Your guidance and Your light to show us the way You would have us go. Help us to be Your searchlights here on earth. Show us those who need to be found. Send Your Holy Spirit to help us in our search so that through Him we will have the power and courage to tell them about You and Your saving grace. All this we ask in the Jesus' name. Amen.

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