

The story of the search for the lost piece of silver associates itself with the Holy Spirit's quest for men. The lighting of the candle and the sweeping of the house are both suggestive bits of imagery. They correspond to the two-fold work of the Holy Spirit in flashing light into the soul and in striving with the human will. Candle and broom are His chosen implements of work. Happy is the man who does not "quench" the flaming candle which the Spirit brings, but welcomes its manifesting light. Happy is he who does not "resist" His necessary disturbances in clearing the dust away. Not always does He stroke the soul with pads of plush. The litter may lie too deep in the corners of the house for that. Harsh and irritating His sweeping must sometimes seem, but it is well worth enduring for the recovery of the jewel that was lost.

The story of the prodigal's home-coming speaks to us of the Heavenly Father's quest for His lost children. "While he was yet a great way off his father saw him, and was moved with compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him." This is the evangelical climax of the story, this swift, far run of the father to meet "his weary, wandering child." How far,