

Luke 7:36-50

We will begin a verse by verse study of the book of Colossians in August. **Please begin now praying that we meet Christ afresh as we work our way through those 4 chapters.** This morning we are going to be looking at a tense situation unfold at a party.

READ/PRAY

There was a tense moment at this party that we read about in Luke 7. I want us to consider 4 questions as we look at this story together this morning.

I. Who would you want to come to the party with?

2 very different people attend this party.

1. **Simon** v36 *Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him, and He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.*

- a. He had a home, a table, friends
- b. He was able to provide a meal... a party
- c. He was a Pharisee... which literally meant separate one. He stood out.
- d. He was known for keeping the law, fasting twice each week, and paying tithes and giving offerings.

2. A Sinner

a. She was uninvited v37

1. *37 And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house...*

2. She learned...heard through the grapevine.
3. She didn't get an invitation. That is for sure.

b. She had a reputation v39

39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner."

1. She came in uninvited, but her reputation preceded her...and it was even more unwelcome.
2. Whatever type of sinner she was, she was known throughout the community as "sinner."

3. Which of these 2 would you want to identify with at the party?

- a. Who would you want to walk in with?
- b. If we are honest, we would likely say...I am much more comfortable hanging out with Simon.

II. Who would you want to leave the party with?

2 Very different types of people walk out!

1. **Simon** v44-46

44 Turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house;

- a. Jesus did not just enter his house un-announced.
- b. He was invited and yet Simon failed to offer the common courtesies of hospitality to him.

you gave Me no water for My feet,

- a. There was generally a servant who would wash the feet of guests as they entered because feet got pretty nasty!
- b. There was at least always a basin inside the door of the home
- c. Not in this case. Jesus was given no water.

45 You gave Me no kiss

- a. The Saudi men would do this two cheek kiss as greetings
- b. It would be like us not shaking hands or giving the side hug

46 You did not anoint My head with oil

- a. They often used perfumed oil to cover the smell...like deodorant
- b. There was no oil for his head

It was a very cold welcome...if it was a welcome at all.

2. **A Sinner** v44-46

44 Turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

- a. She did not have any water, but she provided tears
- b. She did not have a cloth, but she provided her hair

45 You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet. 46 You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume.

- a. She poured out her own perfume upon his feet.
- b. This most likely was a sacrifice for her...and she was not even the host!

3. Which of these 2 would you rather identify with after the party?

- a. Would you want to stay with Simon who is smiled at by everyone at the party but Jesus?
- b. Or would you want to leave with the sinner who is frowned upon by everyone at the party but Jesus?
- c. Do you want to leave and be on the "outside" with the sinner now forgiven? Or stay with the self righteous "in crowd" as they mock her, scorn Jesus, and justify themselves?

III. What distinguished these two from one another? v47

v47 *For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.*"

What distinguished them was ultimately the depth of their love for Christ.

1. Simon's love for Christ climaxed with an invitation to come to his home.
2. This woman so loved Christ she could not contain herself and she expresses it powerfully.

Jesus said, love for Him is what made the difference... and is what makes the difference

1. Desire to read and pray grown cold? Love is the issue.
 - a. You can't wait to turn on the news or your reality tv show
 - b. No one has to remind you. You love it!
2. Desire to assemble with the saints for worship grown cold? Love is the issue.
 - a. You can't wait to get on the golf course or the lake.
 - b. No one has to beg you. You love it!
3. Desire to worship grown cold? Love is the issue.
 - a. You sing your secular music with enthusiasm and excitement.
 - b. You love it!
4. Desire to hear the Word preached grown cold? Love is the issue.
 - a. You sit through a sports event, and if there is OT you count it all joy.
 - b. You sit through a movie and hope for a post-credit scene.
5. Desire to give to the work of the Kingdom grown cold? Love is the issue.
 - a. You can't wait to buy that latest want that you want.
 - b. You love it.
6. And we could go on and on....love is the issue.

When spiritual disciplines feel like cold religious rules to you, it is because your heart has grown cold and you have left your first love

1. You are acting more like the Pharisee than the woman!
2. Mark 7:6 *And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.'*
3. When spiritual disciplines feel like cold religious rules to you, it is because your heart has grown cold and you have left your first love and **it happens to us all all of the time!**

IV. How can we love much? v40-43, 47-48

40 *And Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he replied, "Say it, Teacher."*
41 *"A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?" 43 Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have judged correctly."*

1. This woman so loved Christ that she could not contain herself.
2. And why? She was a known sinner, with a sinful reputation who had been forgiven.

47 For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.” 48 Then He said to her, “Your sins have been forgiven.”

Why do we have such little love for Christ?

1. Because we have a little forgiveness.
2. Now, the obvious question is, why would we have a little forgiveness?

3 major reasons.

1. We Underestimate our Sinfulness

- a. We underestimate our sinfulness because we measure ourselves by ourselves
- b. I am better than most people out there.
 1. Have you watched the news? Have you seen what is going on in our nation? In our state? In our own community?
 2. Every time I look around I feel way better about myself!
- c. As long as we measure ourselves by ourselves, we will underestimate our sinfulness.
- d. 2 Corinthians 10:12 *For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.*
- e. We must measure ourselves by the perfect standard of God who cannot look upon sin!

2. We Underestimate His Holiness

- a. Almost every time I talk to people about their salvation, people think they are ok.
- b. They make a case for their spiritual condition: baptism, church membership, goodness etc.
- c. You, like the debtors in the parable, are unable to pay! You cannot settle your sin debt no matter what or how much you do!
- d. We have underestimated the holiness of God.
- e. Isaiah 6:1-7

3. We Underestimate God’s Forgiveness

- a. My sin is too big. God could never forgive me.
- b. Matthew 27:1-5
 1. This is clear repentance...but it is incomplete repentance
 2. He had repentance but not faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross to pay for his sin
 3. He felt as though He needed to do penance...he needed to pay.
 4. So he hung himself and went to hell.
- c. Some of you recognize your sin, feel remorse for your sin, and have forsaken your sin to a large extent, but you haven’t been forgiven much because you underestimate God’s forgiveness.
- d. You just can’t accept the forgiveness and grace of God: THE GOSPEL

Cliff analogy: Imagine the ocean...the tide is going out. On the beach is a high cliff overlooking the ocean. ON the high cliff stands Christ with his back to the edge of the cliff with his back to the ocean as the tide goes out. You meet him there and present to Him your sin.

1. Micah 7:19 *he will tread our iniquities underfoot*
2. Isaiah 38:17 *you have cast all my sins behind your back*
3. Micah 7:19 *You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea*
4. Psalm 103:12 *as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*
5. Jeremiah 31:34 *I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more*

Conclusion:

You might have walked in this morning like the Pharisee or like the sinful woman. But you don't have to leave like you came in. You can leave forgiven much, loving much, at peace with God. How?

v50 *And He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."*

- a. It was not her tears from a broken heart that saved her.
- b. It was not her humble ministry as she let down her hair and wiped his feet
- c. It wasn't her sacrificial service as she anointed his feet with oil
- d. It was her faith in the work of Jesus Christ that saved her and gave her peace.

You can have a big forgiveness this morning which will result in a big love for Christ today if you will just believe. If you will receive.

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord?