

A Tale Of Two Sinners

By: David Sproule

When we think about all of the various sins there are in the world, we might think there are hundreds or thousands of different kinds of sinners. However, if we narrow it down, we may come up with a number much smaller, representing the types of sinners on earth. In **Luke 7:36-50**, Jesus was in a house with two sinners. However, these two sinners were very different from each other.

The first sinner was the owner of the house. He was a Pharisee named Simon. He had invited Jesus into his home to eat, but we do not know his motives for doing so. We would like to assign genuine and positive motives, but in reading the text, it is difficult to do that. While he had invited Jesus to be his guest, he did not provide any of the “welcome amenities” that were customary in that day.

The second sinner was “a woman in the city” (believed to be an immoral woman “of the streets”) who crashed the party, coming into the home and dinner uninvited. She heard that Jesus was there, and she wanted to be where He was. She stood at His feet, wept, washed His feet with her tears, wiped them with her hair, kissed His feet and anointed them with fragrant oil. She provided the “welcome amenities” that Simon did not.

Simon was a sinner, but he didn’t believe it. He was suspicious of Jesus, questioning His divine knowledge. He was judgmental of “what manner of woman this is” who was touching Jesus. The woman was a sinner, but she knew

it. She came “behind” Jesus. She did the most menial of all tasks to express her heart to her Savior. What a contrast!

Jesus told a short parable to awaken Simon to the contrast between him and this woman. “There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both.” Jesus then asked Simon (get this!), “Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?”

Jesus indicates that this woman’s sins had already been forgiven her (in some earlier encounter), based upon the Greek perfect tense in verse 48, “Your sins have been forgiven in the past and they remain forgiven at this moment.” So, this woman was not doing all of this because she was seeking forgiveness. She was expressing her immense love for Jesus for having forgiven her of her sins.

This is the tale of two sinners: one who looked at everyone else as sinners, and one who could not contain her excitement for having been forgiven. Friend, which are you? When was the last time you profusely thanked the Lord for forgiving you of your sins? Never take that for granted!

Rejecting The Counsel Of God

Article Selected

The first psalm describes the character of those who are blessed by God. “He does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly.” The implication of these words is that if one does walk in the counsel of the ungodly, he is cursed. The psalmist has in mind walking in the counsel of ungodly men and the blessedness of those who walk in the counsel of the godly men. Think of how this is magnified when we think of the importance of walking in the counsel of the godly One. The New Testament speaks often about this.

The counsel of God is revealed in the Bible. Paul described the breath of this counsel when he said, “I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God” (**Acts 20:27**). Messengers of God must speak the truth (**1 Pet. 4:11**); they must speak the truth in love (**Eph. 4:15**); and they must speak the entirety of God’s will. Even if men reject what is taught, the messenger is still innocent. Paul said, “I am innocent from the blood of all men, for I have not shunned. . .” (**Acts 20:26**).

The counsel of God cannot be changed by any person on earth. David said, “Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven” (**Psa. 119:89**). The English Standard Version emphasizes the word settled. “Forever, O Lord, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.” God has revealed His counsel in His words and decrees the blessing of those who follow it. It is remarkable that men so often choose to reject His counsel.

The New Testament affirms this truth even more emphatically. It speaks of the unchangeable character, the immutability, of His counsel (**Heb. 6:17**). Those who seek to change His counsel are condemned by God. Paul reveals how the curse of God awaits every man, every angel and even Paul himself if they perverted the gospel he had preached (**Gal. 1:8-9**).

This counsel of God is spoken of by the Holy Spirit in His discussion of the greatness of John the Baptist and the message he brought. He said that all the people who heard John, even the tax collectors, . . . justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John.” What about those who were not baptized by John? “But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will (the Greek word is counsel) of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him” (**Luke 7:29-30**).

Let me urge you to devote time in your life to read about His will, His counsel in your life. When every Bible is burned up with the fires of heaven consuming the earth, there will be one copy that remains to be used by the Judge of all mankind to measure our lives (**Rev. 20:12**). That counsel is firmly fixed in heaven, it is immutable. To reject its teaching on any topic, even the baptism revealed by Jesus, is to reject the counsel of God. Think about this!



Upcoming Events

TODAY: James Cammock will be preaching the morning sermon. There will be a potluck luncheon after morning worship, then Summer Youth Bible Series Awards. Singing to follow at 12:45pm

Sun. 9/11: Ron White will be preaching in the morning; Doug Jobses in the evening.

Sun. 9/18: Ron White will be preaching in the morning; Kevin Sheeran in the evening.

Area Events (More info on the bulletin board in the hallway):

Oct. 7-9: Creation & Evolution Seminar at Weber Road

Nov. 12: Bible Bowl 2022 at Weber Road

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Daniel Rose, husband of Mary Rose who is a co-worker of Letty Randle. He had open heart surgery last week.

Joyce Faires' son is doing well.

Candace Starling's surgery went well.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson.

Service Roster

Week of September 4, 2022

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading.....Mike Atkinson
Song Leader Doug Jobses

Opening Prayer..... Mark FitzSimmons
Closing Prayer..... Lupe Escojido

Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Ken Dorries
Cup..... Doug Jobses
Offering..... Dan Fielder
Assist..... Jack Jobses
Assist..... Willie Fossati
Assist..... Luke FitzSimmons

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Will Burleson
Closing Prayer..... Rick Bass

Lord's Supper & Offering..... ... Doug Jobses,
Ken Dorries

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class.....James Cammock
Song Leader Rick Bass
Devotional Ron White

Other

Prepare Communion Nina Siegel

Congregational News

Birthdays

Herb Ramsey.....Sept. 9

Anniversaries

Curtis & Ann Pantel.....Sept. 9

Food Helpers for the month of Sept. - Team A.

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030.

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Weekly Reading

“For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion
and every evil thing are there.”
James 3:16

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of August 28, 2022

A.M. Bible Class.....60
A.M. Worship.....95
P.M. Worship.....62
Wednesday Bible Class.....44
Offering week of August 28, 2022.....\$4,344

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*
B.K. York *Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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