

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

The Pharisee and the Sinful Woman

Last time...Jesus had

- a word for 3 cities (the unbelievers in) that have rejected Him – Woe
 - inviting and comforting words of rest for those who have received Him
- The Invitation to Mankind...Matt 11:28-30

This time...Simon the Pharisee and the woman with many sins

We will be in Luke 7

v36 Pharisees...eat with him:

After Jesus spoke to the multitude around Him

- testified of John the Baptist...including v34
- pronounced His “Woe” over the 3 cities that had been given so much
- issued the most amazing invitation ever extended

a Pharisee named Simon (v43) invited Jesus to commune/fellowship with him

Jesus is the invited guest, the guest of honor...

a great (in teachings and in miracles) teacher and heralded as a prophet

v37 a woman in the city, which was a sinner:

We do not know (since Scripture does not say)

- the name of the woman
- the name of the city
- how the woman gained access to the Pharisees house and feast

But we do know, because we need to know, that the woman

1. was a sinner

- she knew she was a sinner
- everyone knew she was a sinner
- she was heavy laden by her sin, in search of rest for her soul

2. accepted Jesus’ invitation

- she came to Him, taking Him at His Word
- she came bringing very expensive perfume (John 12:5) in a very expensive box/vase
- she came to express her gratitude for Jesus’ invitation...v38

v38 at His feet...weeping...wash His feet...wipe...kissed His feet...anointed:

When the sinful woman accepted Jesus' invitation to

- Come unto Me
- Take My yoke upon you
- Learn of Me
- Find rest for her soul

where did she go?

To His feet...she is at the feet of Jesus, the place of

1. being in one's right mind
 - demoniac in Mark 5:1-15 and Luke 8:26-35
2. devotion
 - Mary in Luke 10:39
3. brokenness of spirit
 - Jairus in Mark 5:22 and Luke 8:41-42
 - Syro-Phoenician woman in Mark 7:25-26
 - Mary in John 11:32
4. profound thanks
 - healed leper in Luke 17:12-16
5. awe/respect/fear...worship
 - John in Rev 1:17

What does she say?

Nothing!

She is speechless

What does she DO?

1. Weep...uncontrollably sobbing
2. Wash...with her tears (of sorrow or joy?)
3. Wipe...with her hair vs a towel
4. Kiss...with thankfulness and adoration
5. Anoint...with ointment to bless Jesus

The sinful woman who accepted Jesus' amazing invitation is...repentant

2 Cor 7:9-10 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death

Godly sorrow for offending God vs self-sorrow for getting caught

Godly repentance is the only condition of heart that one can

- Come unto Jesus
- Take His yoke upon you
- Learn of Him
- Find rest for your soul

Was Jesus embarrassed, “awkward”, or annoyed by this woman and what she was doing?

No...only God is not embarrassed, “awkward”, or annoyed in the presence of poor, broken humanity

But how did Simon the Pharisee react?

v39 spake within himself...if he were a prophet:

Simon the Pharisee

- unacknowledged sinner (even though Ps 14:3, 1 Kings 8:46)
Olivia ask for a cookie: No more after this...so she took 2!
- thought himself to be clean

judges...both the woman and Jesus

Thinking to himself, speaking only in his heart, silent and unheard,

Simon says of:

- the woman: she is a sinner
- Jesus: obviously not a prophet of God, also unclean since she touched him

Silent Simon was unheard by the other humans in the room...

but God was also in the room and Jesus heard Simon loud and clear!

Jer 17:10 I the LORD search the heart

1 Sam 16:7 man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD
looketh on the heart

1 Chron 28:9 Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and
serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for
the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the
imaginings of the thoughts

Jesus heard Simon's heart and mind...proving Simon's judgment of Him to be so very wrong

So Jesus says something, not to defend Himself but because He never passes up a teaching moment

v40-42 to say unto thee:

Jesus does not let Simon's error in judgment go uncorrected...
He loves him too much to do that

Simon responds in keeping with his judgment..."Master" is insincere flattery

Jesus corrects and teaches with a parable, a spiritual truth

- understood if believe
- not understood if not believe

Parable

Creditor: God, the One offended (Ps 51:4)

two debtors: sinners, the offenders

- Simon and the woman
- one 10x the sinner as the other but both sinners
- neither can pay their debt...no sinner can

God loves both sinners equally and kindly forgives both sinners of their debt

Indeed...[v34](#), Friend of all mankind!

Lesson: Which sinner/debtor will love God/Creditor more...a lesson in

1. Love and mercy
2. Relationship vs religion

v43 I suppose:

Simon says, "Simple" and gives the right answer

Can we infer that Simon's answer is given with a condescending tone?

v44-46 turned to the woman and said unto Simon:

When speaking the parable, Jesus looked Simon in the eye
Now, He turns to the woman...yet continues speaking to Simon

What kind of look is in Jesus' eyes as He looks at her?

Tender Love

What is the tone of voice with which Jesus speaks to Simon?

Tender and Loving

“Simon, I came here at your request/invitation and you gave Me

1. No water for My dusty feet
2. No kiss/greeting
3. No oil for My head
4. No hospitality
5. No respect
6. No honor
7. No love

But this woman (whom you despise and scorn so deeply)

1. washed My feet with her tears...personal, intimate, vulnerable
2. wiped My feet with her hair
3. kissed Me without ceasing
4. anointed My feet...too humble to anoint My head
5. lavished Me with
 - respect
 - honor
 - gratitude
 - love...do, labor, choice

v47 I say unto you:

While still looking at the woman, Jesus finishes His teaching moment with Simon

- I say unto you...Thus saith the LORD
- her sins, which are many...Jesus knows v39b to a greater depth and breadth than does Simon!
- her sins are forgiven...the sins of a repentant sinner
- because she (the “greater” debtor) loved (Me, the Creditor) much
- you (who think so highly of yourself) have loved (Me) little...and are forgiven in kind...an unrepentant sinner

Jesus’ words...spoken with love and gentleness...should have gone off in
Simon’s mind like a thunderclap with devastating impact

While Simon is digesting Jesus’ words...

v48 Thy sins are forgiven:

Looking in the woman’s eyes since He turned to her, Jesus now speaks to her...
into her heart: “Your sins are forgiven.”

The most beautiful words, spoken tenderly and lovingly to one who had so greatly
offended Him with her sins

Words of God meeting the woman’s greatest need, as well as that of every person
A simple yet bold declaration of His Deity

v49 they...say within themselves:

Obviously other guests were invited to Simon's house...other Pharisees also questioning/doubting the identity and office of Jesus?

Like-minded with Simon, had they wondered the same thing Simon did in v39?
If they had, did they not pick up on the fact that Jesus heard his/their thoughts by what He just taught?

And with His answer

- to their unspoken objection
- to forgive the woman of her sins

did they not hear Who Jesus is?

Apparently not...because they have another thought, a question
When they hear v48, the chorus of corrupt hearts rings out...in the ears of Jesus

The collective outrage tells us what Jesus already knew – they missed the lesson of His teaching moment because they did not believe what Jesus said about His Identity

They have missed it previously

Luke 5:17-26

“Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

“What reason ye in your hearts?”

They have rejected

- His testimony...
 - the words the Father gave Him to say
 - the works His Father gave Him to do
- His love
- His mercy

Micah 7:18 Who *is* a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger forever, because he delighteth *in* mercy

Matt 9:13 But go ye and learn what *that* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

btw...what is the answer to their question?

It is as obvious as the answer to Jesus' question to Simon

Only God can forgive sin, just as only God can hear the hearts of men

Therefore, Jesus Christ is...God

v50 Thy faith has saved thee, go in peace:

Having spoken the beautiful words in v48 to the woman and with the deafening unbelief of the self-righteous ringing in His ears, The Prince of Peace and the Friend of sinners (v34) has more beautiful words to speak into her humble, loving heart:

- Your faith has saved you
 - Hab 2:4, Gen 15:6
 - John 6:28-29
 - Eph 2:8-9
- Go in peace
 - Matt 5:3, 4, 9
 - Rom 5:1
 - Matt 11:29 b...because she accepted/believed Matt 11:28-29a
 - “in peace” = “in Christ”

Application...questions for self-examination of my/your heart:

1. What kind of sinner am I?

- acknowledged and repentant
 - agree with God
 - humble
 - broken
 - heavy laden
 - reduced to tears
 - looking up
 - seeing by faith
- unacknowledged and unrepentant
 - disagree with God
 - proud
 - looking around
 - self-righteous
 - judgmental
 - indignant
 - blind by unbelief

2. Who do I say that Jesus Christ is? (The Center question)

3. How much do I love?

Love:

- believe
- do
- labor
- a choice vs an emotion
- God first, others second, Self last
 - Any other love is a corrupt love
- Love never fails...corrupt love always fails

Do I love God as He loves me?

Do I love Jesus like: Simon the Pharisee or the woman?

Simon loved Jesus little

The woman loved Jesus much

Did the woman come to Jesus feeling

- worthy? No
- good about herself? No
- depressed? Perhaps, probably
- tired, laboring and heavy laden? Definitely

But she heard Jesus invitation to come to the One Who is

- worthy
- good
- the lifter of her head
- her strength and refuge
- ready to take her cares as she casts them upon Him because He cares for her

She came by faith because of...love

- drawn by God's love
- grateful and unashamed to express that love to Jesus before the eyes of all those watching
- in the face of ridicule and condemnation

How did she leave?

- forgiven
- in peace...rest for her soul
- knowing she was loved by God
- blessed
- Ps 126:5-6 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves

How much time do I spend at Jesus' feet, in

- my right mind?
- devotion to Him?
- brokenness of spirit for how I have offended Him?
- thankfulness for His invitation and forgiveness?
- worship of Him?

Do I love others as God loves them?

Whom am I serving as Jesus modeled in John 13?

Into whom am I pouring my/Jesus' life?

What are the names of the disciples I am making?

When was the last time I shared the Gospel with another person?

Do you know how to?

Do you want to learn how to?

Who is interested in learning how to? (v4e Gospel Presentation)

When was the last time I invited anyone to church to Come, Take, Learn of Jesus?

4. With Matt 5:16 in mind, what kind of light do I shine?

- Darkness (proud self-reliance)
- Dim bulb
 - fearful
 - selfish – express gratitude for God's amazing love only when have a personal reason/motive, but not to just say "I love you!" to Jesus and want Him and others to know it
- LED (sold-out and on-fire)

If you come to Jesus like the Pharisee, will you repent?

If you have never come to Jesus like this woman, will you come now?

Let's gather in small groups to pray...in agreement with, in one accord with our Father...

to let the Holy Spirit write these words on our hearts and to transform our lives

I want (James, Veronica, James, Katrina, Matthew, etc) to come here and pray with me

How do we reach your generation, the next generation, the future of the church?

Closing Song