

“Parables of Jesus – The Two Debtors”

Text: Luke 7:36-50

³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, so Jesus went into the Pharisee’s house and sat at the table. ³⁷ A sinful woman in the town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house. So she brought an alabaster jar of perfume ³⁸ and stood behind Jesus at his feet, crying. She began to wash his feet with her tears, and she dried them with her hair, kissing them many times and rubbing them with the perfume. ³⁹ When the Pharisee who asked Jesus to come to his house saw this, he thought to himself, “If Jesus were a prophet, he would know that the woman touching him is a sinner!”

⁴⁰ Jesus said to the Pharisee, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” Simon said, “Teacher, tell me.” ⁴¹ Jesus said, “Two people owed money to the same banker. One owed five hundred coins^[a] and the other owed fifty. ⁴² They had no money to pay what they owed, but the banker told both of them they did not have to pay him. Which person will love the banker more?” ⁴³ Simon, the Pharisee, answered, “I think it would be the one who owed him the most money.”

Jesus said to Simon, “You are right.” ⁴⁴ Then Jesus turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? When I came into your house, you gave me no water for my feet, but she washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss of greeting, but she has been kissing my feet since I came in. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷ I tell you that her many sins are forgiven, so she showed great love. But the person who is forgiven only a little will love only a little.” ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” ⁴⁹ The people sitting at the table began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” ⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, “Because you believed, you are saved from your sins. Go in peace.”

1. The Pharisees were an influential _____ sect within Judaism in the time of Christ and the early church.
2. They were known for their emphasis on personal _____ (the word “Pharisee” comes from a Hebrew word meaning “separated”), their acceptance of oral tradition in addition to the written Law, and their teaching that all Jews should observe all 600 plus laws in the Torah, including the rituals concerning ceremonial purification.

3. The Pharisees were mostly _____ - class businessmen and leaders of the synagogues.
4. Though they were a minority in the Sanhedrin (The Jewish _____ Court) and held a minority of positions as priests, they seemed to control the decision-making of the Sanhedrin because they had _____ support among the people.
5. The Pharisees accepted the _____ Word as inspired by God. At the time of Christ's earthly ministry, this would have been what we now call the Old Testament.
6. The Pharisees gave _____ authority to oral tradition, saying the traditions went all the way back to Moses. Evolving over the centuries, the Pharisaic traditions had the effect of _____ to God's Word, which is forbidden. (refer to Deuteronomy 4:2)
7. The Gospels abound with examples of the Pharisees treating their traditions as _____ to God's Word (Matthew 9:14; 15:1-9; 23:5; 23:16; 23; Luke 11:42). Jesus applied the condemnation of Isaiah 29:13 to the Pharisees, saying "Their teachings are merely human rules. (Mark 7:7)
8. The Pharisees taught the following doctrines:
 - A. God _____ all things, but decision made by individuals also affect life's course.
 - B. There will be a _____ of the dead. (Acts 23:6)
 - C. There is an _____, with appropriate reward and punishment on an individual basis. The Messiah will set up His kingdom on earth.
 - D. The spiritual realm, including the existence of angels and demons, is _____. (Acts 23:8)
9. In the Gospels, the Pharisees are often presents as _____ and proud opponents of Jesus. He stated it bluntly: "They do not practice what they preach." (Matthew 23:3)
10. As a general rule, the Pharisees were _____-righteous and smug in their delusion that they were pleasing to God because they kept the Law – or parts of it, at least. As Jesus pointed out to them, however scrupulous they were in following the finer points of ritualism, they failed to measure up to God's standard of holiness: "You have neglected the more important matters of the law - justice, mercy and faithfulness." (Matthew 23:23)

11. Usually Jesus did not condemn WHAT the Pharisees taught, but WHAT they were - _____.
12. The fact that perfume was used indicated that the woman treated Jesus as someone of _____ importance. Moved by the moment, she wept as she anointed Jesus and kissed his feet.
13. The Pharisee seem to dwell ONLY on the woman's past, while Jesus sees potential that love and forgiveness can contribute to changing a person's _____.
14. The woman saw her great debt! She _____ what she was.
15. The basis of love is _____ that is extended and it produces a response of love.
16. Jesus indicates that the woman's _____ reflect her experience of forgiveness from Him.
17. The Pharisee sees himself as "a _____ sinner." He didn't recognize His debt; his sinfulness; his lostness.
18. Simon's love for God was NOT great, because he ad NOT appreciated the _____ of God's forgiveness that is available to him.
19. The Pharisee "judges" this woman in order to gain a 'good feeling' about himself.
20. That Pharisee, in his desire for purity, separated himself from _____ with sinners.
21. Jesus talks and preaches about sin, but does not _____ Himself from sinners. He understands that in order for light to shine in darkness, the light must engage the darkness.
22. Believers must be _____ to relationship with those outside the faith.