

Introduction

After salvation, the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts, giving us the ability to love Him because He first loved us. Yet, we fail Him and we do not love Him as we ought. We must grow in our love for Him.

1 Luke 7:36-39: Love is Seen in Action

One of the Pharisees, Simon, “*desired*” (Luke 7:36, meaning: asked) Jesus to eat with him. Despite his hospitality, Simon (as showed in his later words) did not truly love the Lord. This is in contrast to the woman who came to wash Jesus’ feet. She was a “*sinner*” (Luke 7:37), i.e. a prostitute. She purposed to visit Jesus and brought an alabaster box of precious ointment to anoint Him. She also washed His feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. She loved Jesus in action, at the expense of her time, possessions and personal humiliation. Each act was purposeful and determined. She did them out of a heart that loved Jesus.

Who we love and how much we love can be seen in our actions. What do we spend our time and effort on? What do we do despite what man may say? Do we pursue self and the world? Or do we pursue Christ whom we say we love?

2 Luke 7:40-47: The Right View/Reason Behind Love

While love is seen in action, we must be mindful that true love is not just action. There must be a right motive behind the action. Jesus told Simon the parable of a creditor who forgave two debtors, one owing 1.5 years of wages, and the other 1.5 months. Simon rightly said that the debtor forgiven of more would love the creditor more. This was a picture of the woman who washed Jesus’ feet. She knew how much sin she had been forgiven of, she understood what great love and forgiveness she had received, of a debt she could never pay. In contrast, those who think lightly of the sins they have been forgiven, will love little. Simon failed to wash Jesus’ feet or kiss Him in greeting or anoint His head. The woman, on the other hand, washed, kissed and anointed His feet. Simon did not think of his sin as something great or serious, and so he loved the Lord little compared to the woman. Jesus forgave the woman of her sins. Her sins are “*many*” (i.e. great in volume), thus she loved much.

Our love for the Lord is greatly dependent on whether we rightly see ourselves and the gravity of our sins. In a world full of the devil’s devices and distractions, we must learn to meditate on Christ, think on our own sinfulness and treasure His sacrifice.

3 Luke 7:48-50: Know the Person You Love

Jesus forgave the woman of her sins, testifying that He is God. Simon saw Jesus as a “*master*” (Luke 7:40, i.e. a teacher), and not as God. He loved little because he did not truly know the Lord. The woman, on the other hand, was “*forgiven*” (Luke 7:47, sin being cast away, never to return) because of her faith – she believed in who the Lord Jesus Christ was, believed that he could forgive her sin, and so she came to Christ, not seeking food or healing, but seeking Christ Himself.

May we, like the woman, truly know and love the Lord as our Saviour and God who forgives us of our sins.

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