

Luke 7:36-50 LESSON: SAVING FAITH – April 10, 2016

HISTORY:

Chapter 7:18-35 ¹ John the Baptist was cast into prison shortly after he introduced Christ to Israel. He was put there for speaking out against the adulterous relationship King Herod was having with his brother's wife, Herodias. This time period can be outlined as follows:

- I. **Confusion (vv. 18-20)** - John knew what Jesus was doing because John's own disciples had kept him informed. However, he began to entertain doubts and could not understand why Jesus did not declare His Messiahship and set up His kingdom. John's doubts were natural, and Jesus didn't rebuke him for them. Instead He responded in a way that John would understand.
- II. **Confirmation (vv. 21-23)** - In order to get some answers John sent two of his disciples to Jesus. Jesus did not give these men a lecture on theology but instead invited them to watch as he healed the sick, cast out demons and gave sight to the blind. After they had seen the evidences of His power, He told them to return to John and tell him what they had seen.
- III. **Commendation (vv. 24-30)** - After John's disciples had departed Jesus publicly commended John for his ministry. He told them how John was the prophet predicted by Isaiah (**v. 27**).
- IV. **Condemnation (vv. 31-35)** - Following His commendation of John, the Lord gave a condemnation of that generation for refusing to accept either Himself or John. The Pharisees weren't troubled by their inconsistency toward John and Jesus. They were good at justifying themselves. Most of us can also find reasons to do or to believe whatever suits our purposes.

I. EATING WITH A PHARISEE 7:36-39

7:36 And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. This present passage contrasts the attitudes of the sinful (repentant) and the self-righteous. Simon, a Pharisee invited Jesus to his house for dinner. The house of Simon was a house of the rich. Jesus accepted the invitation and went into the Pharisee's house and sat down to eat. Jesus ate with both sinners and religionists. No one was excluded from His attention or love, even when they lacked the common everyday courtesies and respect.

7:37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, There behold, a woman in the city; a sinner; a prostitute heard that Jesus was at the dinner and also went into the Pharisee's house. She didn't come empty handed. She brought with her an alabaster box of ointment.

7:38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/messengers-from-john-the-baptist/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

- She approached Jesus. She knew that the public scorned and gossiped about her, and the so-called decent people wanted nothing to do with her. She knew she was a sinner, unclean, lost, and condemned. There was only one thing that could make a prostitute enter a Pharisee's house to meet Jesus. She was gripped with the guilt and weight of her sin. It was more than she could bear. She ached for forgiveness and cleansing. She knew if the Pharisee recognized her, he would throw her out, but she took that chance.
- Before anyone could stop her, she rushed to Jesus and stood behind Him at His feet (Remember, in the East, people reclined to eat. They rested on their left arm facing each other around the table with their body and feet extending out away from the table). She surrendered in utter humility to the Lord, overcome with conviction and emotion. She fell at Jesus' feet weeping; so broken that tears just flowed from her eyes.
- She unwound her hair and as her tears fell upon the feet of Jesus, she wiped His feet with her hair and then covered His feet with kisses. She weeps just from being in His presence; His company she is in awe of. The loosening of her hair was totally forbidden of women in public. Seldom has such love and devotion been shown Jesus. She must have been totally desperate.
- She didn't come empty handed. She comes to Jesus and she is overwhelmed. She brought an expensive ointment, known as an alabaster box of ointment; a type of perfume, and anointed Jesus' feet. Perfume was highly regarded by women of that day. It was probably the most costly possession she had, and she was giving it to Jesus. She anointed the Lord's feet in a supreme act of humility and love and surrender.

7:39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. Now, the Pharisee sees what's going on and began to speak within himself. Within his mind he's thinking that if Jesus was really a prophet, He would allow this woman to touch Him. "*He would know what sort of woman she was. He would know that she is a sinner.*" He wouldn't say it aloud to Jesus, but evidently he didn't know that Jesus knew, and knows all our thoughts. But Jesus did know about this woman. And He did allow her to wash His feet with her tears; wipe the tears with her hair; cover His feet with her kisses, and pour the perfume on His feet. Simon considered himself better than this sinful woman. He thought Jesus should reject her. He didn't sense a need for forgiveness and repentance like her.

II. TEACHING THE PHARISEE 7:40-43

7:40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. Jesus announced that He had something to say. I don't know if Simon was ready for to hear what Jesus had to say. Simon probably thought it was something good in his favor, or even to thank him for this great banquet invitation. For Simon said, Master, say on.

7:41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. Jesus begins by telling him a parable. Two men owed money to a certain creditor. One owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

7:42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?— But when neither debtor could pay the money back, then, the creditor just forgave both of them. After ending the parable, Jesus asks Simon to tell Him which one loved the creditor the most.

7:43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. Simon answered that he suppose that it would be the one who had the greater debt discharged. Jesus answered that he judged rightly.

²But that's not the point. If you can't pay a debt, it doesn't matter how much you owe. If you're broke, you're broke. In that sense, there is no difference between owing a little and owing a lot, especially if you don't have any money.

The truth slowly begins to seep in. "Simon, we're all in debt to God. Some owe more, some less. But none of us can pay even a penny of what we owe. Here is the gospel message: God is willing to forgive all debtors equally, the people who owe a lot and the people who owe a little!"

Simon is now at center stage and he is beginning to sweat. What Jesus means is painfully clear: "Simon, there is fundamentally no difference between you and the prostitute."

Simon considered only the woman, not himself, a sinner and doubted that the Savior knew that she was a sinner. But the Savior's parable indicated that both Simon and the woman were sinners—debtors to Him—and that both needed His forgiveness.

III. CONFRONTING THE PHARISEE 7:44-50

7:44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Aha, we get down to the nitty gritty. Jesus turns to the woman that had entered Simon's house uninvited, and says to Simon, See this woman? You see Jesus came into Simon's house and no one gave Him water for His feet; no one extended any courtesies. Usually, the host showed respect by providing water for the guests to wash their dusty, sandaled feet. The kiss was the accepted greeting among friends, and oil was to anoint the guests' head; all to refresh themselves after traveling under the hot sun. It was expensive, so it was usually reserved for honored guests. But this woman, as some called a prostitute washed Jesus' feet with her tears and wiped them dry with the hairs on her head.

1. Jesus deserved more than common respect. He deserved a worshipful respect. He was seen as Lord and was respected as Lord by the repentant. He was the One who alone could meet the needs of the human heart; therefore, He was the One who was to be worshipped. The self-righteous needed to learn this.

7:45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

² <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/messengers-from-john-the-baptist/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

You see Jesus came into Simon's house and no one gave Him a kiss, a greeting, but this woman, as some called a prostitute, did not cease to kiss His feet from the time He entered into the house.

2. Jesus deserved more than a common greeting. He deserved a humble, brokenhearted greeting. He was approached with a sense of unworthiness and humility by the woman. The repentant saw the worthiness of Jesus and grasped something of His awesome person as the Son of God and as the Sovereign Lord of the universe; therefore, He was the One to whom all men owed their allegiance, the One who alone had the power to forgive and accept men. The repentant saw Jesus as the One who alone could help her, so the repentant approached Jesus and greeted Him with a deep sense of humility and unworthiness. The self-righteous needed to learn this.

7:46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

You see Jesus came into Simon's house and no one anointed His head with oil, but this woman covered His feet by anointing them with oil.

3. Jesus deserved more than a common gift. He deserved a sacrificial gift. He was seen as the hope and Savior of one's life, so the repentant surrendered her life and gave the most precious gift she had to anoint her Lord. The self-righteous needed to learn this.

7:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. Jesus was the One who had and has the power to forgive sins. The woman's sins were many. Her loving much was proof that her many sins had been forgiven. Simon's loving little testified that he had been forgiven only a little. The self-righteous approach to God has only a little sense of sin; they don't even feel the need to be forgiven, for they love little. By thinking you have only been forgiven a little, you will only love God a little.

7:48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. Jesus says unto the woman: "*You are forgiven.*" That was a release; a weight lifted off her shoulders. She's clean. Three things are important to her:

1. ³By saying "*Your sins are forgiven*", that takes care of her past.

7:49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?— The guests at the table are speaking within themselves; murmuring within. They're wondering who is this that can forgive sins?

7:50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace. One last thing Jesus says to the woman: she's saved by faith, now go in peace. There is peace in Salvation.

2. By saying "*Your faith has saved you*", that takes care of her present.

³ <http://www.keepbelieving.com/sermon/how-to-be-a-great-lover/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

3. By saying "Go in peace", that takes care of her future.

SUMMARY:

A Pharisee (Simon) invited Jesus into his house for dinner. A woman in the city; a sinner heard that Jesus was at this dinner and also went into the Pharisee's house. She didn't come empty handed. She brought with her an alabaster box of ointment. She stood at Jesus' feet behind Him weeping. She used her tears to wash His feet and wiped the tears away with her hair; kissed His feet, and anointed them with ointment of her alabaster box. The Pharisee sees what's going on and begins to speak within himself. He wouldn't say it aloud to Jesus, but was questioning in his mind if Jesus was a prophet because if He was, He would know what kind of woman she was and reject her (**7:36-39**).

Jesus announced that He had something to say to Simon, and Simon was eager to hear what Jesus had to say. Jesus begins by telling him a parable of two men owing money to a certain creditor. One owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when neither debtor could pay the money back, the creditor just forgave both of them. After ending the parable, Jesus asks Simon which creditor loved the most. Simon answered that he suppose that it would be the one who had the greater debt discharged. Jesus answered that he judged rightly (**7:40-43**).

Jesus turns to the woman, and says to Simon, "*do you see this woman?*" Jesus had come into Simon's house and no one gave Him water for His feet; no one extended any courtesies, but this woman washed His feet with her tears and wiped them dry with the hairs on her head. Simon gave Him no kiss, but this woman didn't cease to kiss His feet from the time He entered into the house. Simon didn't anoint His head with oil, but this woman anointed Jesus' feet with ointment. The woman's sins were many, but they are forgiven, for she loved much, but the man who has little to be forgiven, has only a little love to give. Jesus says unto the woman: "*You are forgiven.*" The other guests began to ask within themselves, "*who is this that can forgive sins?*" Jesus turns to the woman to tell her that her faith has saved her. Now, she can go in peace (**7:44-50**).