Becoming Debt Free

**Reading: Luke 7:36-50**

*No matter how self-sufficient we may be [or want to be] we cannot escape being indebted.*

**jesus the master teacher**

The people regarded Jesus as a great teacher. ***(Matthew 7:28-29) And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: {29} For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. [who had great respect, too, but who simply recited the law] (Mat 8:1) When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him.***

Kinds of teaching Jesus used.

1. Formal Sermon as the Sermon on the Mount {Matt 5, 6 & 7}

2. Informal conversations like those with Nicodemus [John 3]

3. Matthew 22 we see question & answer sessions with the Scribes & Pharisees.

4. The Parable was probably the most effective teaching method. It is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Comes from ‘para’ & ‘ballo’ : literally translated “to throw beside”

His mission: ***(Luke 19:10) For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost***.

**why did simon send for christ?**

Appointed – Curious – Interested?

(Matthew 10:32-33) ***Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. {33} But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven***.

A “little” sin can keep us from heaven just as much as many “big” sins. ***(James 2:10) For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.***

**simon had to learn something about himself**

Simon was as guilty as any of us who see wrong in others but can’t see it in ourselves. Jesus allows Simon to see through the window of the parable to judge rightly.

**lessons we can learn from this parable** –

1. We are all in Debt to God. & We are responsible for our debts -- ***(2 Corinthians 5:10) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he has done, whether it be good or bad.***

2. We all have different degrees of Debt. & We are incapable of paying off our debt. ***(Romans 3:20) Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.***

3. God freely forgives our debt. ***(Hebrews 8:12) For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.***

**although pardon is free it is not cheap!**