

Lesson Eleven: The Parable of the Two Debtors

Text: Luke 7:36-50

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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.

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,

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.

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.

40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

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.

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

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

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.

48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace. (KJV)

1. What prompted Jesus to teach this parable?
2. Who was Simon? What was his religious background?
3. What was Simon's reaction when he saw a sinful woman washing and anointing the feet of Jesus?
4. What do you think was the basis of Simon's reaction?
5. Why do you think Jesus spent so much time associating with sinners? Explain your answer in the light of His statement found in Luke 19:10.
6. What differences exist between the way God looks upon people and man looks upon them? (cf. 1 Samuel 16:7)
7. In terms of the two debtors, should one have been more grateful to the moneylender than the other? If so, which one and why?
8. What is meant by the statement in verse 47, "But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little?"
9. What, in your own terms, is the main lesson to be learned from this parable?
10. What are some of the ways Christians should express their gratitude to God for the forgiveness of sins He has granted to them?