

PARABLES

“The Moneylender”

Luke 7:36-50

What is a parable?

Mark 4:2 And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine....

PARABLE = is a statement or brief story, taken from daily life, that portrays some spiritual truth.

A parable is, literally, something “cast alongside” something else.

“Parable of the Moneylender”

Jesus is dealing with forgiveness:

Jesus had to address a lot of issues that would hinder what He came to do

- People resisted His message
- People could not understand major principles like forgiveness

We often view people as different levels of sinners

- Because of their past
- Because of their addictions

This setting is another set-up for Jesus to teach

Dinner at the Pharisees house:

Luke 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.

- These are all “good people” – like “church people”

Luke 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, 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.

THIS is the story that sparks the parable:

Luke 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

- This woman must have already encountered Jesus
- She was motivated to thank Him
 - She sought Him out
 - She came prepared to anoint Him

Worship = responding and admiring the goodness and greatness of God

Maybe she heard the message that was preached in Matthew 11:28

Matthew 11:28

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Understand the culture of this story:

- It was not uncommon for people to gather in the courtyard of someones house if they were hosting someone important
- They would gather around the doors to watch and listen
- This woman was in the crowd
- Waiting on her moment to approach Jesus

This was house of a Pharisee

- They were critical of anyone that fell short of the law
 - They showed no love
 - They showed no grace
- She knew all of this

How do people feel around us?

- Do they feel like they are being judged when they come in here?
- Do they feel like less of a person because of how we make them feel?

Luke 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, 38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping

She becomes overwhelmed in the presence of Jesus

- Falls at her feet
- Begins to weep and worship as if she is the only person in the room

This is authentic Worship!

Luke 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....

She Came Humbly

- She falls at His feet
- She lowers herself before her Savior

She Was Broken

Luke 7: 38 And stood at his feet behind him **weeping**....

She was Thankful

Luke 7:38 ...and kissed his feet

- Overwhelmed with Gratitude, she began to kiss His feet
- She loved on Jesus in the only way she could

Luke 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.

- A woman's hair is her glory

1 Corinthians 11:15 But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

- She took, that which represented her beauty and began and used it as a rag to worship Jesus

She was Self-Sacrificing

Luke 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.**

Ointment - "myrrh", perfumed oil

- This was worth a year's pay
- This was the best she had

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

- She used something that was different than the traditional anointing oil
 - OIL – Olive oil
 - Ointment – perfumed oil

This is the same ointment – same word used in Proverbs 7:17

Proverbs 7:17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

Couple of views about this....

- ONE: It simply represented her worship giving something of great value to Jesus
- TWO: It could well be that this ointment was what she used in her line of work

HERE ARE ALL THE CRITICS:

Luke 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.

- They were disgusted with this woman
- Irritated that she was there
- In reality, It was Jesus' favorite part of the night

Luke 7:40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

This whole situation was confusing to everyone in the room

- This went against their traditions
- This went against their feelings

Jesus used all of this as a set-up to teach a powerful lesson on forgiveness:

“Parable of the Moneylender”

Jesus tells a parable: “Let’s talk about forgiveness!”

Luke 7:41 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?**

- Simon represented the small debt – 50 days of wage
- This woman represented the greater debt – 500 days of wage

Jesus is the creditor:

- Neither one of them were able to pay their debt
 - They both owed more than what they had

It does not matter how much or how little you have sinned, we all fall short of paying the debt

- But this parable is not so much about the amount of debt forgiven

- But rather, the response of the ones forgiven

Luke 7:43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

She lived a horrible life

- **She was trash in the community**
- Viewed as a low life

JESUS changed all this!

Luke 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. 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.

SEE THIS COMPARISON:

- Simon – the critical Christian
 - Looking down on this woman
 - Thinking he was better
- The woman – In love with Jesus
 - Pouring out her worship
 - Happy just to be in His presence
 - She is a true worshipper

Which one do we most identify with?

Which one was Jesus blessed by?

Luke 7:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, **which are many**, are forgiven; **for she loved much**:

Jesus said, "SIMON, I have forgiven her"

- It does not matter what people think

- Their opinion does not matter

Luke 7:48 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?

- Her worship sparked this
- They began to see Jesus differently
 - Not just as a prophet, but the Son of God

HOW? By the testimony and worship of this lady

Luke 7:50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

- PEACE
 - Something Jesus gave her that she had never had

Lesson to remember:

Be careful how you judge how others worship

- Everyone is equally forgiven
- Everyone belongs at the feet of Jesus
- You are not better because you don't have as bad of a past