

Luke 7.36-8.3

Forgiveness Seen by Love

Sometimes Parties do NOT GO OFF like you had PLANNED

Jesus > Special Guest at DINNER PARTY – Some BIG SURPRISES

1. The Party

2. The Punking

3. The Pardon

1. The Party

a Good Host v36 one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner w him

MERIT Received thru HOSTING a RABBI for DINNER > Pastor's TOO!

DINNER Party NOT PRIVATE > Semi-Public // like a BLOCK PARTY

Festive Meals > People Reclined on Low Couches > Leaning on Left Arm

Head Toward Table > Body Stretching Away from Table > Feet Extended

Don't Imagine Woman Crawling UNDER a TABLE by Jesus' FEET

Aisle Along Walls OPEN for Visitors to Come / Sit / Listen to Convo

Jewish Banquets were Setting for Moral Instruction: Guest TEACHER

Pharisee: Religion about BEING GOOD > God LOVES GOOD People

Their Religion NOT for People whose Lives are MESS, Like this Woman

If this were DRAMA > Word PHARISEE crowd goes BOOO & HISS!

Luke's PRESENTATION of Pharisees...NOT Always NEGATIVE

3 X's Tells: Saul the PHARISEE becomes Paul the Apostle to the Gentiles

b. Guest v 36 ...he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table

Jesus ACCEPTING Offer to HOME of Pharisee > NOT SURPRISING

Luke records 3 X's Jesus eats Meal w/ Pharisees: Students of God's Law

For Jesus to eat with tax collectors and sinners and refuse table fellowship with Pharisees would have made him as guilty of reverse prejudice as some of us who discover in our zeal to right wrongs we develop prejudices against the prejudiced. Fred Craddock

c. Gate Crasher v. 37 woman who had lived sinful life in town learned Jesus eating @ Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume

COST of Perfume > Approx ONE YEAR'S Wages

Each 4 Gospels has Anointing Story – Matt/Mark/John > SAME Incident

Point of Matt/Mark/John > GIVING to the POOR

LUKE > DIFFERENT Occasion – Only Luke tells story of THIS EVENT

POINT of Luke's Story > LOVE and FORGIVENESS

UNNAMED and UNKNOWN Woman > Probably NOT Mary Magdalene

v. 38 and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. Luke Narrates w 'Matter of Fact' Style > OUTRAGEOUS Party Crasher!

Was UNCOMMON 4 Woman like HER Show Up & DO What SHE DID

Not Know Woman's Plan: ANOINT Head? or Feet? > Plan CHANGED

EMOTIONS got BETTER Her: Start WEEPING for DEEP GRATITUDE

As TEARS fell on Master's Feet, WIPED Off tears w HAIR & Kissed

John BAPTIST > Attending to FEET was MENIAL TASK of a SLAVE

PURE & PASSIONATE – but NOT EROTIC – she LOVED Jesus

Astonishing AFFECTION - KISSING His Feet

2. The Punking

a. Proof Obvious Simon invited Jesus thinking: He MIGHT be Prophet

v. 39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is -- that she is a sinner."

Simon > Embarrassed & OFFENDED by ACTIONS of this Woman

“TOUCHING” Jesus’ FEET – Word has SEXUAL OVERTONES

Loosing Hair > Jewish Ladies did Not LET Down their HAIR in PUBLIC

A man can divorce his wife if she shows her hair to another man. Talmud

SHOCK & RAGE all Felt about HER Presence > Transferred to Jesus!

ENDED Simon's Curiosity, Now Certain **‘this man NOT a PROPHET!’**

b. Prophet...Obviously!

v. 40 Jesus: "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher"

UH OH!! “SPEAK ON” = POLITE, Not Encouraging!

41,42 "2 men owed money to certain moneylender. One owed him 500 denarii, & the other 50. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

Denarii = Day's Wage Laborer / 500 Denarii = Nearly 2 yrs WAGES

Jesus NOT Giving Economics Lecture > See our Great Spiritual Debt
 Focus NOT AMOUNT of Sin > but AWARENESS of it in OUR LIVES
 Jesus PROPHET – Knows Simon's THOTS & HE knows this WOMAN
 By Simon's OWN CRITERION Jesus is CLEARLY a PROPHET
 PROPHET Jesus sees into HEARTS > Knows Sincere Gratitude Woman

c. Punk'd...Opps! If Simon hoped Party would Display him...

v. 43 Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. - ANSWER is Obvious / Jesus Politely Affirms

v. 44 Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

SEE this Woman = REALLY UNDERSTAND or Simply ACCUSE Her?

Simon could not see that woman as she then was, for looking at her as she had been.
 G. Campbell Morgan

Jesus NOT See SINNER from CITY: *Woman made Pure by Saving Grace*

LUKE holds back some CRITICAL INFORMATION to Present it HERE:

vs. 45,46 You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.

Sinful Woman gave Hospitality that *RIGHTEOUS* Simon Failed to Offer

Poor Host who Neglected Guests > CARDINAL Sin in ANCIENT World

Simon implicates himself in a serious breach of the laws of hospitality whereby he has challenged the honor of his guest, Jesus....this woman fulfills the role expected of Simon, and thus shames Simon as a host
 Joel Green

Like Emperor w NO Clothes > We think PEOPLE See us RIGHTEOUS
 May fool PEOPLE > God's GAZES onto Our SPIRITUAL NAKEDNESS
 Woman Guilty Sins COMMISSION / Simon Guilty of Sin of OMISSION

Simon was RELIGIOUS > But had NO LOVE for JESUS

Simon believed that grace was unavailable to sinners like that woman and unnecessary for a righteous man like himself.
 Philip Ryken

3. The Pardon

a. Forgiveness

Formal religion of Pharisees had no real answer to the problem of sin, and could only respond with disapproval and condemnation Michael Wilcock

UGANDA Saying about Public Sinners ***“that one is a GONE CASE!”***

Not True God's Eyes > IF theres LIFE theres HOPE! God ABLE to Save

Jesus Alone can Do Away w/ SIN: Salvation & Deep Sense of PEACE

v. 47 For this reason I tell you that her sins, her many sins, must have been forgiven, or she would not have shown such great love Jerusalem Bible

Jesus NOT IGNORE or MINIMIZE her Sin: MANY, but FORGIVEN!

THREE X's (vs. 47,48,49) > DECLARES Woman is FORGIVEN

v. 48 Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

PUBLIC and AUTHORITATIVE Declaration of FORGIVENESS

v49 other guests began to say, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

NOT Just a Prophet > He is GOD – ONLY God can FORGIVE Sins!

Jesus Friend of Sinners: Roman Centurion, Widow in Nain > MIRACLES

Woman > Greatest Miracle > Meets Greatest Need > Cost Greatest PRICE

Heal Servant: Never Even Went/ Raise Dead Young Man: Spoke Corpse

FORGIVE Woman > POUR OUT His LIFE Blood on the CROSS

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us Ephesians 1.7,8

b. Faith LOVE is not CAUSE of Forgiveness but the CONFIRMATION

NOT Known if she Previously Met Jesus, Heard Him Preach? Believed!

Devotion DISPLAY of DEEP and SINCERE FAITH she **Already Has**

1st FORGIVENESS by GRACE / THEN comes Grateful RESPONSE

"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more."
Isaiah 43.25

Simon INNOCENT of Sexual Misconduct / but was EMPTY of LOVE

DIFF between THEM NOT SIZE of DEBT > but **Only 1 FORGIVEN**

Theres nowhere more a wretched & miserable sinner than I. Francis Assisi

v. 50 Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you...."

FAITH is Important THEME in Luke > Even in this Chapter 7

Jesus about Centurion: "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel" Luke 7.9

Jesus to John the Baptist: "Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me" Luke 7.29

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. Galat 5.6

c. Feelings – Who do you most IDENTIFY with in this Story?...

Simon had an arctic heart, a permafrost of the soul... Kent Hughes

Much of the time I HONESTLY have a Heart like SIMON

I too SELF-CONSCIOUS to Let my LOVE FOR JESUS 'Hang OUT'

Woman Lost all sense of SHAME or POUR'S her HEART w/ PERFUME

So much forgiven, so little, little love. So many mercies, so few returns. Such great privileges, and a life sadly below them. John Newton

written a few weeks before composing the hymn 'Amazing Grace'

Jesus desires the affection of our hearts as well as the faith of our minds...Fall into the arms of his love, bow at his feet in worship, and weep for joy that all your sins are forgiven. Philip Ryken

When FORGET we LIKE HER at Jesus' Feet: Forget how Bring Others

Peace with God Highest Levels when I practice DISCIPLINES of Faith

CONSISTENT – In Worship, Word, Prayer, Fellowship, Accountability

d. Following v. 50 Jesus: "Your faith has saved you; *go in peace.*"

"Go INTO Peace"/ Rabbi 'go in peace' to Dead/ Go INTO Peace – Living

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means. Luke 8.1-3

Continuous, Wandering Preaching Ministry – Not one Point to Another

FOCUS on Open Air, Public Ministry > **TWELVE** – 1st Mention of 12

WOMEN Rescued from Demons & Diseases (Dr. Luke makes Distinct!)

Mary Magdalene Xtian Movie Star = Beautiful, Saved from Immorality
 No Biblical Basis 4 Imagination: Demons NOT Moral, eg Lust, Perversion
 Rescued from Very Distressing Existence > Mental or Physical Disorder
 Luke > Tells how Jesus has Good News for Women
 See Male Example (Centurion) THEN FEMALE Example (Widow)
 Zech & Elizabeth / Simeon & Anna / Mary & Joseph / Priscilla & Aquila

Jesus MORE than FORGIVE Women's Sin > **DISCIPLES and SENDS**
 Pattern > GRACE RECEIVED then MINISTRY PURSUED – 2 LEVELS
 1) Personal INVOLVEMENT and 2) CONTRIBUTION of RESOURCES
 Part of their MINISTRY is to MINISTER to those Who MINISTER

e. Family Church to Model Purity and Power of Jesus' Love to World
 Woman RISKED All to Come & LOVE Jesus w RADICAL ABANDON
 TRUSTED she would be RECEIVED – NOT Rejected, Scorned, Accused
 CARE Jesus Showed to Women – and Men – should be WAY we CARE
 Life of LOVE > GRATEFUL Response of Sinner FORGIVEN by Jesus X

Psalm 36 How Precious Is Your Steadfast Love

To the choirmaster. Of David, the servant of the Lord.

Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart;
there is no fear of God before his eyes.

For he flatters himself in his own eyes
that his iniquity cannot be found out and hated.

The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit;
he has ceased to act wisely and do good.

He plots trouble while on his bed;
he sets himself in a way that is not good; he does not reject evil.

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; // **your judgments are like the great deep;
man and beast you save, O Lord.**

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

For with you is the fountain of life; // **in your light do we see light.**

Oh, continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
and your righteousness to the upright of heart!

Let not the foot of arrogance come upon me, nor the hand of the wicked drive me away. // **There
the evildoers lie fallen; they are thrust down, unable to rise. Amen and Amen.**