**LUKE: Investigating the Real Jesus**

**The Response to Forgiveness, Luke 7:36-50**

Weekend of 2/17-18/24

**INTRO Turn to Luke 7:36, pg. 1029 and let me SET THE SCENE for you.** Jesus has been invited into the home of a wealthy Pharisee named Simon.

**SETTING THE SCENE**

1. **The House-** the home of a wealthy Pharisee.

* Built around a courtyard where they’d eat during warmer weather.
* Customary to invite a visiting teacher to their home for a banquet.
* Townspeople were allowed to come in and listen to the conversation, learn from the teacher.

1. **The Welcome-** the custom for welcoming a guest to one’s home.

* People didn’t shower/bath daily as most do today.
* Walked in sandals on dirty/animal traveled roads if you know what I mean and would show up sweaty, smelly, with dirty feet.
* The host/servant would pour cool water over the guests’ dirty feet and place some fragrant oil on their head to mask any smells.
* The host would place their hands on the guest’s shoulders and lightly kiss each cheek.

1. **The Meal**

* Served on a center table surrounded by large couches.
* They would lay on their left elbow with their head toward the table and feet away from the table.

1. **The Motivation-** not a friendly dinner among peers.

* Jesus’ presence as a sinner would make Simon/home “unclean”.
* Pharisee was looking for a way to take Jesus down, Luke 6:7
* The Pharisee “was requesting”- kept asking over and over.
* Jesus said, “Love your enemies”/showed it by agreeing to attend, Luke 6:27f

1. **The Woman-** washed Jesus’ feet with tears, poured perfume on them.

* The Pharisee calls her a “sinner”- one who doesn’t follow Judaism.
* Jesus said she had “many sins”.
* She’s most likely a prostitute.
* Jesus may have forgiven her earlier, and she’s now showing her gratitude.

1. **CAUTION:**

* Don’t be distracted from Jesus’ lesson by the woman’s response.
* Different cultures express joy, sorrow, and grief differently.
* Middle eastern culture is very expressive.
* Similar responses happened 3x in the Gospels.

1st- Luke 7 unnamed woman in Capernaum at Simon the Pharisee’s house.

2nd- Matthew 26/Mark 14 unnamed woman in Bethany at Simon the leper’s house 2 days before Passover.

3rd- John 12 Mary in her house in Bethany 6 days before Passover.

1. **QUESTION: DID JESUS KNOW WHO THIS WOMAN WAS AND WHAT SHE HAD DONE?**
2. **Answer: Yes, of course He did, He’s God!**
3. He knew her, her childhood, the choices- hers/others that led to prostitution, every time she seduced a man, every time a man willingly sought her out, and every other sin she had ever committed.
4. He also knew everything about Simon, his childhood, choices- his/others that led to him becoming a Pharisee, every time he taught the OT incorrectly and every other sin he had ever committed.
5. He also knows everything about you and me, our childhood, ours/others’ choices that makes us who we are today and every sin we’ve ever thought, did, failed to do.
6. **QUESTION: WHICH OF THE DEBTORS LOVED THE MONEYLENDER MORE?**
7. **Answer: The one who was forgiven more.** Jesus said Simon answered correctly.
8. Moneylender is God, debtors are 2 people who have sinned- 500 denarii- sinned a lot/50- sinned a little.
9. Human thinking weighs sin- bad/not so bad; a lot/a little; so the more we think we’ve been forgiven the more we’ll appreciate the one forgiving us.
10. The more a person has sinned the more they love God and appreciate His forgiveness
11. **Digging Deeper**
12. Who you choose to identify with in the parable shows your attitude toward sin.
13. 50 denarii- I don’t see my sin as being too bad especially in comparison to other people.
14. 500 denarii- I see my sin as being really bad; I’m worse than most people.
15. From a human perspective this thinking makes sense and Simon’s answer is correct.
16. The more/worse I think I’ve sinned, the more I appreciate Jesus’ forgiveness.
17. The woman knew her sin was a lot/bad, humanly speaking, so her demonstration of appreciation was a lot; she couldn’t stop showing her appreciation.
18. Simon didn’t see himself as either debtor/as a sinner.
19. He believed he was without sin/right with God through keeping his religious rituals.
20. He was up to date on his religious responsibilities/sin was covered.
21. It was the woman and Jesus who were the obvious sinners in the room.
22. He didn’t even welcome Jesus as he would a guest in his home- no water/feet, no perfume, no kiss.
23. Self-righteousness makes it easy to judge others, even to judge God.
24. God’s attitude toward our sin is the only one that matters.
25. Disobey one of God’s commands you disobey all, James 2:10–11. **There’s no weighting sin- one is as bad as all.** Jesus goes even deeper using James’ examples of adultery/murder; He says sin is in our hearts.
26. Disobeying in our hearts/thoughts makes us guilty, deserving hell, Matthew 5:21-22, 27-29.
27. When it comes to our guilt before God it’s not the amount that counts, it’s the thought that counts. **And just for clarification because someone will always ask …**
28. Yes, acting out on sin can have greater consequences then just thinking them- hitting someone in anger has greater consequences then yelling in anger, but God judges the anger.
29. Yes, men lust but women lust too when they look at/think about other men, wish the guy was their husband, or wish their husband could be more like the guy they’re looking at/thinking about.
30. No, it’s not just LGBTQ+ people who are sinners; lusting/sex outside a man/woman marriage is sin.
31. No God doesn’t allow you to divorce if your spouse thinks about having sex with others.
32. **QUESTION: DO YOU SEE THIS WOMAN?** I mean REALLY see her? **Do YOU see her response to being forgiven?**
33. **Answer: Her focus was on Jesus, not on the sin He forgave. Did you hear that?**
34. Jesus had forgiven her sin- He would never use it against her again/He’d never bring it up again.
35. Memorize these 2 simple/powerful verses. Psalms 103; 1 John 1:9
36. Forgiving is not forgetting- God can’t forget anything, and often we can’t forget our sin and others won’t let us forget our sins.
37. Forgiving is choosing to not use their sin against them.
38. To not bring it up as a weapon or excuse for retaliation.
39. If Jesus won’t bring up our sin again, then we shouldn’t bring it up to ourselves either. **But we do don’t we?**
40. The weight/realization of her sin, and it being forgiven by God, motivated her to passionately express her gratitude to Jesus.
41. **What do you do when the weight/realization of your sin, and it being forgiven by God, comes to your mind?**
42. Sadly, too often, though forgiven by God, we only dwell on the weight of our sin.
43. The unnecessary weight crushes us and we incorrectly think either God is bringing it up to punish us, or we dwell on it thinking if He’s not going to punish me, then I’ll punish me.
44. **Do you see this woman?** Do you see what she did? Then do what she did- passionately express your gratitude to Jesus for His forgiveness of your sin.
45. **EVERY TIME YOUR SIN COMES TO MIND- SEE THIS WOMAN** and passionately express your gratitude to Jesus for His forgiveness.
46. **EVERY TIME SOMEONE LIKE THE PHARISEE BRINGS UP YOUR SIN- SEE THIS WOMAN** and passionately express your gratitude to Jesus for His forgiveness.
47. **QUESTION: WHO IS THIS MAN WHO EVEN FORGIVES SINS?**
48. **Answer: He Is God who died for your sin.**
49. Jesus suffered for your sin to secure God’s forgiveness for you.
50. As God He’s the only one who can do this for you.

**TAKEAWAYS**

1. **Have you received God’s forgiveness? Jesus said your faith in Him saves you.**

* Jesus said your faith in Him will save you.
* Faith in Him taking God’s wrath for you so you wouldn’t have to.
* Tell Him you believe and ask God to forgive you of your sin.
* This is not that prayer you prayed to get you out of a bad situation or heal you of a health issue- those don’t save you. It’s a prayer where you admit you’re a sinner, that you need/want God’s forgiveness and you believe Him when He says Jesus died in your place so you can be forgiven.

1. **When your sin is brought up, will you instead express your gratitude to Jesus for His forgiveness?**

* Once forgiven, Jesus won’t bring your sin up.
* When you/others do express your gratitude for Jesus’ forgiveness.
* Live in the peace that Jesus gives through His forgiveness.