

Following Jesus
Who does He think you are?
Luke 7:36-50

I. The Narrative

A. Jesus preached, healed, and offered forgiveness

1. The messages of Jesus recorded in scripture would have been widely repeated as he ministered in Galilee
2. Forgiveness, Power, Repentance, Eternal Life in Jesus teachings
 - a) Luke 5:20 - Forgiveness, Paralytic Man
 - b) Luke 7:9 - Power, Speak, and it happens
 - c) John 8:31-36 - Repentance, you were a slave to sin, now the truth has set you free
 - d) John 7:47 - Eternal Life
3. Jesus healed and taught constantly, and grew in popularity and in followers
4. Imagine a young woman, caught in a life of sin, who has heard this message... and believed!
5. Jesus' fame was clearly enough that even the religious leaders had to pay attention to him (even though some of them had already opposed him)

B. Jesus dined with a Pharisee

1. That brings us to this narrative, where Jesus has been invited to eat with a pharisee, Simon
2. This was a semi-public forum, as the house and meal would have been open to the public

C. The Dinner took a turn

1. Dinner does NOT go as planned
2. A sinful woman enters and washes Jesus as he reclines
 - a) She washed his feet with a precious ointment and a precious part of her
 - b) She went above and beyond the norm
3. Simon (the Pharisee) rejects Jesus

- a) How could a prophet be touched by a sinner?
- b) He should have known to send her away!
- c) Jesus thought and knew differently

Crucial Question: Who does Jesus think you are? Simon wondered how it was that Jesus could let a woman like her touch him, 'shouldn't he know who she was?' Jesus knew exactly who she was, and he knew exactly who Simon was. Jesus also knows exactly who you are. What does he think of you?

II. Who does He think you are?

A. Jesus Illustration

- 1. Don't get distracted by the amounts
- 2. The point is that both needed forgiveness
- 3. But only one responded the right way

B. Jesus Teaching

- 1. The point is that both Simon and the Woman need salvation
- 2. Only one recognized this, and responded the right way
 - a) Belief - This actually proceeds her actions!
 - b) Love - She believed that Jesus had forgiven her sin
 - c) Why did she do what she did? Because she loved much. Why did she love much? Because she had been forgiven much! Jesus didn't forgive her sins at the end of the passage, he verbally acknowledges something he had already forgiven!

C. Jesus Assessment - Which are you?

- 1. Are you Simon?
 - a) Don't be too hasty to write of Pharisees, because you might have more in common with them than we would care to admit
 - b) Simon
 - (1) 'Sacrificed' much for religion, like a lot of people

- (2) Associated himself with religion, like a lot of people
 - (3) Missed the whole point, like a lot of people
 - (a) He heard the words
 - (b) He didn't listen or apply
 - c) Simon trusted that his sacrifice and association with religion would save him
 - (1) Simon didn't care/obey like the woman
 - (2) Simon didn't trust like the woman
2. Are you the woman?
- a) What made this woman sinful? We don't know, since she is described in the most generic terms
 - b) She is not generic, because her actions describe her beautifully! But she could be anyone, because we are all sinful like her
 - c) The woman...
 - (1) SACRIFICED for Jesus, because...
 - (2) Loved Jesus, because
 - (3) Believed Jesus

III. What does your life look like?

A. Does it look like Simon?

- 1. There are still Pharisees today, and we must always be on guard for their attitudes
- 2. Simon loved little because he was a "good guy."
- 3. Are you judging others as sinners while they pursue Jesus?
 - a) Colossians 3:5
 - b) Such were some of you
- 4. Are you 'sacrificing' for Jesus to look good?
- 5. Are you associating with Jesus to help you?
- 6. Are you hearing Jesus teaching, but not listening/obeying?

B. Does it look like the woman?

1. We are all like the woman, sinful humans, whose sins were paid for!
2. Are you sacrificing for Jesus himself, to glorify him?
3. Are you loving Jesus because of what HE did for YOU?
4. Do you believe Jesus, and if so, are you obeying him?

C. How can we all be more like the woman?

1. Sacrifice
2. Love
3. Believe and Obey