

They Meet the Master-Week 7

Luke 7:36-50

Main point: We must remember that we are not responsible for changing someone's heart, it is our job to share the Gospel. A repentant/contrite heart is necessary for forgiveness/salvation.

Intro

- **Have you ever met a know it all? Like someone who felt like they knew everything and there was nothing that anyone could teach or tell them otherwise. How do they make you feel?**
- **Tell story of time I met a know it all.**
- When we come in contact with know it all's they're hard to deal with. They can be hard to teach. They can be hard to be friends with.
- **Have you ever met anyone who didn't think they needed Jesus? That they didn't need to hear the news of the Gospel? What was that like?**

This week's story-Luke 7:36-50

- **Read Luke 7:36-50**
- Jesus gets invited to a dinner party by a Pharisee.
- **Describe the Pharisees for me? What do you know about them, what do they act like?**
- Pharisees were very proud, know-it-alls who thought they had all the answers and had no need for the message that Jesus brought.
- Yet, at the same time, because they knew Scripture and the prophecies about the coming Messiah they were curious about Jesus and wanted to challenge Him.
- Some wanted to trap Him, some were genuinely curious, but many of them would not accept what He had to teach because their hearts were hard. They didn't think they needed Jesus.
- They were too proud.
- **How difficult do you think it is to share the Gospel with someone who doesn't think they need it?**
- **What do you think is the best way to share the Gospel with someone who doesn't think the need it?**
- Jesus goes to this party and a woman described as a sinner comes in and begins to wash his feet with her tears.
- **Imagine you're there at this party, how would you react, what would you think?**
- The host was appalled. He thought to himself that if Jesus really was a prophet or who He said He was that He would know that the woman was a sinner.
- Jesus knew His heart, He knew this man's mind, and He knew what to do.
- Jesus did something he often did. He told a story. Parables.
- I like how Jesus starts this story though. I think Jesus was angry. He said Simon I have something to say to you.
- **How would you react if Jesus said this to you?**

- Jesus told a story about two people who owed someone some money.
- One guy owed a lot, the other a little. The man forgave both debts.
- Jesus asked who was more grateful for the forgiveness.
- The man said the one who owed more.
- **What do you think Jesus' parable meant?**
- Jesus was trying to show that both people in the story had a debt that was paid, but only the one who had the greater debt truly appreciated it. The idea behind it is that everyone has sinned and that Jesus has forgiven all our sins. But, because we as humans seem to determine that some sins are greater than others, those of us, like Simon, who feel our sin isn't that bad may not appreciate what Jesus has done for us.
- We have to realize that everyone's sin carries the same punishment.
- As the story continues Jesus points out that Simon was really disrespectful to Jesus by not offering some common courtesies that hosts would often do. Yet, this woman who was an awful sinner in Simon's eyes has given Him those courtesies.
- Jesus restates his point—her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.”
- This is interesting situation. We have one person who doesn't think they need Jesus, and another who understood completely her need for Jesus.
- What can we learn about sharing our faith?
- Sometimes we are going to run into people who don't think they need Jesus. They think they're good enough, or maybe they're really prideful. So how do we minister to them? How do we share the Gospel with them?
- Three thoughts that might help with this.
 - One of the best places to share the Gospel is around a meal. Jesus used this invite to a dinner party as a great opportunity to share truth with those that were there. Why?
 - Meals are a natural setting for relaxed fellowship.
 - It's an ideal time to invite friends over for a visit, and you may have a captive audience.
 - It's a way to show you care about the person you are sharing your faith with.
 - Rosario Butterfield's story
 - Everyone loves a story. Truth communicated through a story/parable is more readily perceived and applied. An explanation is always easier when it can be illustrated.
 - One of the easiest ways to share your faith is to share your story of what Jesus has done for you. You can clearly communicate what you were like before you met Jesus, what brought you to Jesus, and how you have changed because of Jesus. People will clearly pick up on what you are saying, and they'll see your passion for Jesus through your story.
 - Ask questions. Inviting personal opinions from those listening to you encourages them to think about what is being said. This will also help them understand what you are trying to communicate and potentially put it in to practice.

- Jesus did all three of those things in this story today. But, notice something. We never find out if Simon accepted the Gospel. We never know if his heart was changed.
- This can be discouraging to us as we share the Gospel, but that brings me to really the main thing I want you to take away from today's lesson, and it may sound repetitive to some things we've talked about in the past.

Take away-

We must remember that we are not responsible for changing someone's heart, it is our job to share the Gospel. Some people will not see the need to truly repent and turn from their sin. A repentant/contrite heart is necessary for forgiveness/salvation.