



The Table Part 2

November 12, 2023

The Gospel of Saint Luke 7:36-50, ³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table.

³⁷ And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, ³⁸ and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ And Jesus

answering said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” And he answered, “Say it, Teacher.”⁴¹ “A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.”⁴² “When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?”⁴³ Simon answered, “The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.” And he said to him, “You have judged rightly.”⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.”⁴⁵ “You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet.”⁴⁶ “You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.”⁴⁷ “Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.”⁴⁸ And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”⁴⁹ Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this, who even forgives sins?”⁵⁰ And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” May the Lord add His Blessing to the Reading and the Hearing of His Words Today, in Jesus Name. Amen!

Last Sunday, we began a new series together as we look to the New Testament Cannon to discover insights and revelations given by Christ to His audience while seated at a Table.

As I shared last Sunday, often we see Christ in the temple, or in a house, or in the streets or on hillside teaching but unique to His Ministry, we are able to glean powerful insights His conversations and teachings while sitting to eat with others. The uniqueness of these records allows us to see the duality of the God-Man, Christ Jesus. Jesus was such a Man that you couldn't believe He was God but yet such God Himself that it was hard to delineate that He was a Man!

The opening text of the Book of Mark begins with the attack of the Evil One, namely Satan, against the Savior of the World! Mark 1:9-13 annotates the Baptism and Temptation of your Lord and my King! You see this long lean Nazarene wasn't just any man, but He was the God Man. The Early Church Fathers, when they strove to explain the complexity of His Nature referred to Him as the Great **THEONTHRAPUS!**

He was Deity divesting Himself into Humanity! Jesus walks through the wilderness temptation for 40 days being harassed and mocked and tested by Lucifer himself! But then in Mark 1:21, Jesus expends a little frustration and casts a devil out of a man! Signifying that He was here to conquer and subdue the threats of His enemies! He wasn't worried about Devils, or Lucifer, or religious bigots, and he surely wasn't worried about Pharisees!

He was called to push past these things because He was the Great Theanthropos! He was the Christ promised of the Father when the Father prophetically spoke in Genesis 3:15 when the Lord God decreed, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

And it is from this place and posture as the Messiah that Jesus begins to work the greatest miracles of His Ministry; not the raising of the Dead nor healing the Leper. It was the Ministry of Reconciliation of Restoring a broken and debased humanity back into right fellowship with God the Father! Last Sunday, we discussed how Christ revealed the Heart of God while sitting at a Table. And it was this same Jesus that revealed the Mercy of God while sitting around a table!

1) Jesus Demonstrated the Mercy of God by Not Being Afraid to be Touched by the Brokenness of Humanity!

a) Verses 37-38, “³⁷ And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, ³⁸ and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.”

- b) Friends, Jesus is not afraid of our past, our issues, our bondages, our addictions, our sin. He is the only one who has the power to redeem us from these points of bondage and brokenness thus empowering us to be restored through His Blood!
- c) I thank God that He was not intimidated, put out, or disgusted with my sin thus throwing me away! As the old song goes, He looked past my faults and saw my need! I thank God He saw my Need for Him and became like me in the flesh in so that I could become like Him in the Spirit! A son of God redeemed by the Blood of Christ!
- d) He is worthy of my worship and my praise because in spite of all that is wrong with me, He chose to see what could be right in me! I am redeemed because of Him! I am restored because of Him! I am in the Faith because of Him! I am walking in the way because of Him!
- e) I am empowered by the Holy Ghost because of Him! My name is recorded in His book because of Him! Everything I am is because of Him! I am saved because of Him! I am sanctified because of Him! I am filled with the precious Holy Ghost because of Him! And all of this is because of Him because He first Loved me!
- f) 1 John 4:13-19, **“¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in**

him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.”

g) And we love Him today because He loved us when we were unlovable! We love Him today because He was willing to touch our brokenness to make us whole! Point #2...

2) Jesus Demonstrated the Mercy of God by not Being Afraid to Rebuke the Self-Righteous for the Sake of the Unrighteous!

a) Verses 40-43, ⁴⁰ “And Jesus answering said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” And he answered, “Say it, Teacher.” ⁴¹ “A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?” ⁴³ Simon answered, “The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.” And he said to him, “You have judged rightly.”

- b) Friends, we are all debtors! Our debts may have been at different amounts but the point is that we are all debtors! Friends, we are all sinners in need of a Savior! We are all in need of Redemption by His Blood! Our world may have different platforms, different levels, and different means by which we strive to elevate ourselves above others.
- c) But at the foot of the Cross, it is level ground! No matter your gender, your ethnicity, your education, your family lineage, your history, your wealth, your stuff, where you live, or who your mama and them are! We all have trash to tend to and get out of our lives!
- d) It's level ground and there is not caste system nor hierarchical system! Princes and Poppers! Sinners and Saints! Church Folks and Broken Folk! Rich Folk and Poor Folk! Every Kind of Folk! Red Yellow Black or White, they are all Precious in His Sight! We all Need Jesus!
- e) Friends, I don't just need Jesus to be born again; though I am thankful that I am washed in His Blood! I need Him in my life to Pastor. I need Him in my life to walk upright! I need Him in my life to love others! I need Him in my life to correct and convict me!
- f) I need Him in my life to raise my children and lead my wife! I need Him in my life to lead and guide me when I can't see! Oh I need Him!

g) Song – I need thee! Oh I need thee! Every Hour I need thee!

h) Church, we just don't need Him on this side of eternity but also on the Other side! And we would all do well to remember and know who we were without Him and who we are now with Him!

Everybody Needs Jesus!

3) Jesus Demonstrated the Mercy of God by Being Unafraid to Offer Mercy to Someone Who Did Not Deserve It!

a) Verses 47-50, “⁴⁷Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” ⁴⁸ And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” ⁴⁹ Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this, who even forgives sins?” ⁵⁰ And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

b) Friends, if we decide we will wait until someone has earned our mercy, that day will never come. If Christ had waited until mankind repented and turned to God before He came then the virgin birth of the Messiah would still be forthcoming!

c) Friends, The Father did not wait until we earned His mercy to give it to us! And the same should be said of us!

d) Jesus demonstrated the Mercy of God by being willing to do the same! We walk in Mercy because we are the Beneficiaries of His Mercy! So may we all today choose to Live like Jesus!