

Sermon Study Guide - Sunday, June 29



Lead Pastor Brian Bales - Lessons from a Meal with Jesus: *Forgiveness and Memory Problems - Luke 7:36-50*

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 ^[h] themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." Luke 7:36-50 (ESV)

A Life Application Study Guide

James 1:22-25 tells us to put into practice what we are discovering in God's word.

REVIEW: Last week we met Levi (also known as Matthew) who joined Jesus' disciple team as an unlikely team member because of his reputation. And we were challenged to remember that we are expected to share the Gospel with everyone because everyone is worthy, even when others define them as unworthy.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. So.... when have you forgotten something significant?
 - What is significant to one person may not be to someone else but in this context consider what you have been forgiven for. Take a minute and make a mental list of those choices or actions that you know that God has forgiven.
 - As you consider your list, what stands out to you? Have you listed some things that you had previously forgotten about?
2. In last week's lesson in Luke 5, Levi held a feast for Jesus who was the guest of honor and Levi invited his tax collector friends (his colleagues) to the party and "to the table" to meet Jesus. In this week's lesson, Jesus is at a different table with people defined as religious and socially acceptable. Same guest of honor, different crowd.
 - If you've ever been a guest at a party where someone crashed it or watched as someone behaved in a socially inappropriate way, share your story.
 - Or maybe you found a way to attend an event (even though you were not officially on the guest list) just hoping to get close to the celebrity or speaker and maybe get close enough to have a face-to-face conversation. What were you hoping might happen?
3. The host in this story was a Pharisee who observed the cultural norms and enforced the religious laws set in place for the Jewish people. Because of the location of the banquet, others could listen in on the conversation and even be on the fringes. But they were expected to be silent observers.
 - In this scene, we see a woman approach Jesus breaking cultural and religious rules that would have been glaring. She crashed the party, she touched Him, she let down her hair and she began to pour a perfumed oil on His feet which may seem odd, but it was the closest that she could get to Him. Even in our Northern, Va. communities we would likely feel very awkward watching this scene at a party where we were a guest. What about her stands out as most significant to you in this story?
 - What do you think the woman was hoping might happen if she could get close to Jesus?
4. As the Pharisee watched the scene unfold, what did he conclude about Jesus?

- Think of a time when you formed an opinion about someone only to discover later that you had misinterpreted their behavior. Share your story.
 - Jesus shares a story with him (Simon) wanting him think differently about himself and others. How does the story that Jesus tells Simon move you to think differently about forgiveness?
5. Simon drew from his religious and cultural values to conclude who Jesus was (or was not) and to judge the woman who showed up uninvited.
- What had Simon misinterpreted about Jesus and how was this evident in his approach to both Jesus and the woman that Jesus forgave?
 - How will you allow the Holy Spirit to “jog your memory” when you find yourself “living outside of the forgiveness” that Jesus has offered you?
 - How might inviting someone to join you at your table offer them the gift of The Gospel just by being included?

Take Away-

This week look for the people who are on the “fringes” because society has labeled them. Who could you invite to join you at your table to share the gift of a meal and table fellowship?