

The Women

The Unknown Sinful Woman
Luke 7:36-50

Grace Bible Church
July 28, 2019

Introduction: "Any society, any nation, is judged on the basis of how it treats its _____; the last, the least, the littlest." Cardinal Roger Mahoney. This quote appears in various forms by numbers of people throughout history. Many believe it is a play on a quote from Ghandi, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." "You can judge a society by how well it treats its prisoners" Fyodor Dostoyevsky

- This is a thoroughly _____ idea: *"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."* (James 1:27)
- James Harlow in his recent book "What made Jesus Mad" identifies four things: Legalism, Judgmentalism, hypocrisy and an indifference to suffering. This is behind the story of the Good Samaritan
- This story sets up a couple of contrast: 1) the difference in the way Jesus and the Pharisee treated _____ and 2) the difference in the way the woman and the Pharisee treated _____. The Pharisee, in his desire for purity, separates himself from fellowship with sinners. He keeps a woman like the one who approaches Jesus at great distance, thereby making it clear that her lifestyle is not endorsed. Jesus talks and preaches about sin, but he does not isolate himself from sinners. He understands that order for light to shine in darkness, the light must engage the darkness.
- Here is what we know about the woman: 1) She was well known in the community. 2) She was a _____, possibly a prostitute. 3) She believed. 4) She worshipped _____ (the bottle of perfume could have been worth a year's wages, there was another woman who anointed Jesus for his burial) 5) She is silent. There is no record of her saying anything.
- Here is one lesson we need to learn: Do we see sinners for who they have been or for what God _____? If the church believes that it has something to offer (then the church should show concern and the potential of relating in new way to God, as Jesus did.
- How many of us would be open to hear God's voice telling us that God has daughters in a strip club?

Key thought: Faith is seen in our _____ not just our words. Where does such lavish worship come from? From this woman we see:

- I. _____ - Because Christ paid a debt we could never pay. She was fully aware of her sins and she was fully aware of God's forgiveness.
 - A. Gratitude is often revealed in great generosity. *"And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, 'Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.'" And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham."* (Luke 19:8-9)
 - B. Gratitude is motivated by God's generosity toward us. *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his*

poverty might become rich.” (2 Corinthians 8:9) In God’s kingdom the way up is down-just like the King!

- C. Gratitude is demonstrated by helping those who cannot help themselves because that is what Christ has done for me.

II. _____ - Christ did for me what I could not do for myself.

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.” (2 Corinthians 8:9)

- A. Faith demands humility because it is not a work. Faith is a response to the prompting of the Holy Spirit opening our eyes to our state of sinfulness and the reality of what Christ has done. .
“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8–9)
- B. Pride keeps us from Christ. Many of us are uncomfortable with gifts unless it is Christmas and birthdays, even on these occasions we can be uncomfortable if we believe the gift is too expensive. We are hardwired to contribute to our salvation.

To have humility, then, is to understand our origins and our place in the world, to have an accurate sense of who and what we are. Thus, virtuous humility isn’t just a matter of acknowledging our limitations and weaknesses; it recognizes gifts and strengths, too. Humility is an accurate assessment of oneself in relation to the world and to God.

"When grace begins to rule, then our preoccupation with ourselves begins to leave." (Alistair Begg)

III. _____ - because I am forgiven I have nothing left to prove. It took courage for her to walk into the Pharisee’s home to unbind her hair and unashamedly anoint his feet. She had to overcome her fear of judgment to honor the one who had given her so much. The woman pictures a sinner who responds in faith boldly in an exemplary way. She represents the hope that sinners, even notorious ones, can find God. Jesus supplies the commentary, both relational and theologically, to what has taken place.

- A. Boldness is an evidence of the fullness of the HS. To be filled with the Holy Spirit means to be empty of self. It was the biggest change in the the apostles before and after the day of Pentecost. Courage is loving your neighbor’s well-being more than your own safety. Tim Keller
Courage is the commitment to begin without any guarantee of success. – Goethee
- B. Boldness is a fruit of humility. True humility doesn’t lead to timidity. True Gospel-humility means I stop connecting every experience, every conversation, with myself. Tim Keller

IV. _____ - I will treat others the way God has treated me. It is important to recall where we were before he gave us his grace that is the ground of our transformation. It is he who makes us different, and not we ourselves. “You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.” (Leviticus 19:34)

Conclusion: Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness, the nourishment of the mind with His truth, the purifying of the imagination of His beauty, the opening of the heart to His love, the surrender of the will to His purpose. William Temple

When you read this story who do you relate to, who do you most resemble: Jesus, the woman, the Pharisee?