

2-7-2024 – The 7:47 Principle

Luke 7:36-50 – Jesus at the home of Simon the Pharisee & the uninvited guest.
Quite a scene! A study in contrasts . . . people who could not be more different.

He's a pharisee.	She's a sinful woman.
He's a church leader.	She's a streetwalker.
He's the in crowd.	She's an outsider.
He's looked up to.	She's looked down on.
He makes a living promoting stds.	She makes a living breaking them.
He's hosting a dinner party.	She is crashing it.

The more religious? Simon. The more loving? Woman.
And Jesus tells Simon why that is so.

Simon is wondering who let her in. And wondering who Jesus really is.
If really a prophet, he'd know this woman, and what a sinner she is.
And he's about to learn that Jesus reads minds... knows our thoughts.

A story/ parable – moneylender lends 500 silver/50 silver. Cancels debt of both.

The Q: Which one will love him more?

Truth: Her sins are many – forgiven. That is why she has shown great love.

The **7:47 Principle** – “Whoever has been forgiven little shows only a little love.”

Simon did nothing to make Jesus welcome except open the door.

No water for his feet. No greeting/kiss. No oil for his head.

The nameless woman does it all. Tears. Hair. Kisses. Perfume.

The aroma of love. Irony. Couldn't miss it. Evident. . . Evidence.

GNT - “the great love she has shown proves that her many sins have been forgiven.”

Christian Standard Bible – “Therefore I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that's why she loved much.”

How much love do we show Jesus? Little? Or a lot.

Simon's love was calculated & stingy. Hers was extravagant. Perfume.

Simon did the basics. She did the bonus.

Simon cared about his image. She cared more about Jesus'

What's the difference between Simon & the woman? Many! But... God's love.

- We don't know when she discovered it. Saw Him heal a leper. Stop for a woman. Saw lives changed (tax collector to disciple). Saw love.
- **Simon knows God; but doesn't love Him.**
 - o Jesus called Pharisees/teachers "hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.'" **Mark 7:6** (quoting Isaiah 29:13).
 - God doesn't want lip service; empty worship.
- **Simon was trying to figure out Jesus.** Prophet? Messiah? Savior?
 - o Not the woman ... she felt loved & accepted ... & she loved back.
 - "I tell you, the tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you." **Mt. 21:31**
- **Simon was comparing his sins...** I'm better than her. Many sins!
 - o **James 2:10** – "For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws."

This story shows that the love we show to others, is seen/felt by **Jesus**.

- "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." **Mt. 25:35-36**
- **When?** "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." **Mt. 25:40**
- "Kindness to the poor is a loan to the Lord, & He will repay the lender." **Prov. 19:17**
 - o **The love we show others is the love we show to Jesus.**
 - So Again - How much love do we show Jesus? Little. Lot.

We know we should love each other. Greatest commands. But it's hard.

- Often, we just try harder. But **loving with our love won't work.**
 - o **1 John 4:19 – NIV** – "We love because he first loved us."
NLT – "We love each other because he loved us first."
 - o **1 Jn. 4:10** – "This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins."
 - God loved us as sinners, unbelievers, at our worst.

- To truly love each other, we have to first drink in God's love for us.
- **Before we take a step to each other, run to Jesus.**
 - That's b/c we aren't commanded to just love, but love like Jesus
 - **Jn. 13:34** – “A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also must love one another.”
 - On his final night, He said this **3** times:
 - **Jn 15:12** – “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”
 - **Jn 15:17** – “This is My command to you: Love one another.”
 - **To Love** each other like Jesus we first have to **know his love, and then imitate it.**
 - “Therefore *be imitators of God*, as beloved children. And walk in love, *as Christ loved us* and gave himself up for us, a **fragrant offering** and sacrifice to God.” **Eph. 5:1-2.**
 - The **aroma of love** . . . the woman had it. She displayed it.

Do you know God's love?

- His love reaches out to us even when we're **runaways**. Prodigals.
- His love reaches out when we've gotten disgusted with ourselves ... our failures ... Jesus shows up on the **Beach**.
- His love reaches out to save us when we're attacked by others for our sins ... Jesus didn't throw a **stone**.
- His love meets us ... waits for us at the **well**. Drink deep.
 - The **7:47 principle**: we're forgiven greatly/Love much

Song of the week: Loved by Shannon Adducci