

Lessons in Luke -- Lesson 3 – Jesus and Simon

Introduction:

In these lessons we are looking at the ministry of Jesus found in the Gospel of Luke. Simeon prophesied over baby Jesus that He would raise up many weak persons and bring down many proud persons (Luke 2:33-35). We see our next example of this in Luke 7:36-50. We will look at the first part of this passage this week.

Read this passage at least five times, then answer the questions as best you can:

36 Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. 37 And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, 38 and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. 39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner." 40 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it." 41 "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 "And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?" 43 Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." (Luke 7:36-43, NKJV)

In the customs of this day, when one “sat down to eat” he was actually reclining on a couch propping himself up with one arm and eating with the other arm off the table. His feet were away from the table at the end of the couch. Also, meals like this were “semi-public.” Folks from the neighborhood could drop by.

What do we know about Simon? The woman?

Why is it significant that the woman wiped Jesus feet with her hair?

What does 7:39 mean when it says “he spoke to himself”? What does Simon think of the woman? How has Simon’s opinion of Jesus changed? Why did it change?

How is Jesus able to answer Simon?

What is the point of the story that Jesus tells? Who is the creditor? The first debtor? The second debtor?