

Parables of Christ – The Joy of Forgiveness
Lk. 7:36-50

Thesis: To help us understand the joy of being forgiven.

Introduction:

- A. One of the greatest needs that we have is that of forgiveness.
 - 1. Without forgiveness, there is no way that we could enter the kingdom of heaven.
 - 2. Because each of us has sinned, we each need forgiveness.

- B. In this parable of Jesus, we read of the need of forgiveness, and we see the joy we have when we are forgiven.

I. Notice the context of this parable (7:36-39).

A. Jesus goes to the house of a Pharisee to eat (7:36).

- 1. Remember, it was the Pharisees who were against Jesus.
- 2. When this Pharisee named Simon asked Jesus go eat with him, Jesus went tot his house.

B. As Jesus ate with this Pharisee, a sinful woman came in and washed the feet of Jesus (7:37-38).

- 1. While the sin of the is woman is not revealed, it was known around town that she was a sinner.
- 2. As soon as she learned that Jesus was at the house of this Pharisee, she came to wash His feet.
 - a. She “brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil” (7:37).
 - b. “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” (7:38).
- 3. As we discover later, she was doing something for Jesus that Simon, who asked Jesus to come into his home, did not do (7:44-46).
 - a. It was customary for you to wash the feet of those whom you invited into your home.
 - b. Most of the time, it was a servant who would do this.
 - c. However, when Jesus came into the home of Simon, His feet were not washed.
 - d. It took this sinful woman to do that which the master of the house should have done.

C. The Pharisee began to condemn Jesus for allowing this woman to touch Him (7:39).

- 1. Simon said that if Jesus “were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.”
- 2. Simon could not believe that Jesus was allowing this sinful woman to touch Him and wash His feet.
- 3. It was a “holier than thou” kind of attitude.

II. Notice the actual parable (7:40-43).

- A. Jesus says that He has something to say to Simon (7:40).
- B. Jesus then tells this parable to him (7:41-42a).
 - 1. There was a creditor who was owed money by two different people (7:41).
 - a. One man owed him 500 denarii (1 denarius was equal to one day's pay).
 - b. The other owed him 50 denarii.
 - 2. Neither of the men were able to pay their debt (7:42).
 - a. When the creditor saw that neither of them could pay, "he freely forgave them both."
 - b. Both of their debts were done away with, and they were no longer responsible for them.
- C. Jesus then asks Simon a question about this parable (7:42b-43).
 - 1. The question was simple, "Which of them will love him more?" (7:42b).
 - 2. The answer was also simple, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more" (7:43a).
 - 3. Jesus tells Simon that this answer was right.

Practical Application:

III. The point of this parable is that we all need forgiveness (7:47).

- A. Remember that in the parable that Jesus tells, both of the men were debtors who owed something to their creditor.
 - 1. Both men owed something that they could not repay.
 - 2. When the creditor understood that they could not repay him, "he freely forgave them both."
 - 3. They were forgiven of the debt that they could not pay.
 - 4. To say that they were freely forgiven means that their forgiveness was done:
 - a. Willingly
 - b. Quickly
 - c. Without their debt being held over their head
- B. Today, we must understand that no matter how good we have lived, we are in need of forgiveness.
 - 1. The Bible is very plain when it says that everyone has sinned.
 - a. Gal. 3:22 - But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.
 - b. Rom. 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
 - 2. The punishment for that sin is severe.
 - a. Rom. 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- b. **Js. 1:15** - Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.
- 3. No matter how good we live, we all need forgiveness.
 - a. It is because of our sin that Jesus came to the earth and suffered on the cross.
 - 1) **I Pet. 2:21-24** - For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: {22} “Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth”; {23} who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; {24} who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness-- by whose stripes you were healed.
 - 2) **Is. 53:4-6** - Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. {5} But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. {6} All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
 - b. He shed His blood so that we could have forgiveness.

Conclusion:

- A. Do you have that forgiveness that is offered through Christ?
- B. That forgiveness comes only through the blood that He shed on the cross.
- C. God has done His part, will you do yours?