

Forgiveness through Faith (Luke 7:36-50)

Big Idea: Only true faith in Jesus Christ can save us from sin's penalty.

Context – Luke 7:31-35

Jesus rebuked the fickle crowds for their lack of **faith** in Him. Many self-righteous people had been rebuking Jesus in their hearts because He was a “friend of **sinners**.”

Note

This story should not be confused with the account of Mary (the sister of Lazarus) cleaning Jesus' feet with her hair and anointing them with a very costly perfume just days before His death. (*Matthew 26; Mark 14; John 12*).

Narrative

- I. **A Pharisee invited Jesus to a meal at his house and had an unwelcome individual attend. (7:36-40)**
 - A. Both the Pharisee and this woman sought Jesus's presence but for entirely different purposes.
 - B. The Pharisee was respected by most people, yet he did not respect Jesus in his heart.
 - C. The woman was disrespected by all the people, yet she respected Jesus in her actions.
- II. **Jesus gave Simon (the Pharisee) an illustration of two men whose debts were forgiven. (7:41-43)**
 - A. While both of these men owed much, one of them had a significantly greater debt.
 - B. Both of these men were powerless to remove their debt through their own means.
 - C. The money lender forgave the debts of both of men when they were unable to pay off their debt.
 - D. Simon agreed that the man who owed the greater debt would greatly love the money lender who forgave all his debt.

III. Jesus rebuked Simon (the Pharisee) for his actions of inhospitality while commending the woman for her actions of love. (7:44-47)

- A. Although Simon was discourteous to Jesus, this woman showed Him great attention and care.
- B. Although Simon was unfriendly towards Jesus, this woman showed Him great affection.
- C. Although Simon refused to honor and worship Jesus, this woman showed Him great honor and worship.

D. Although Simon showed Jesus no love (because he did not believe in Jesus as His Messiah), this woman showed great love to Jesus because of her faith in Him as her Messiah.
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IV. Jesus forgave this woman’s sins because of her faith in Him. (7:48-50)

- A. While her actions of love did not save her, they were evidences of her true faith in Jesus.
- B. While her good works did not save her, they were motivated out of her true faith in Jesus.
- C. Her faith to believe was a gift from God—a gift Simon the Pharisee had not received. (*Ephesians 2:8-9*).

Observations & Application

- 1. There is not a sin too great or a sinner too lost for God to forgive through faith in Jesus Christ and His gospel.
 - *“Failure is never final as long as the grace of God is operable.” (Dr. Les Olilla)*
- 2. Moralism and religion can never save anyone from sin’s penalty.
- 3. Do not believe Satan’s lies when he says that (1) you do not need God’s forgiveness or (2) that you can save yourself from sin’s penalty.
- 4. True faith in Jesus Christ that results in true forgiveness must be displayed through actions of true love.
- 5. The Gospel of Jesus Christ does not yield to culturally acceptable observances—and neither should God’s Church if it desires His approval.