

LUKE Lesson 19 (Luke 7:24-50)

12 October 2018

1. God's Greatest Man (Born of a Woman). (Luke 7:24-35)

- God's valuation of a godly man is different from man's valuation.
 - Man views greatness as worldly success, riches, influence, possessions, and popularity.
 - John had none of those things, but God said he was the greatest man that ever lived (Matt. 11:11).
 - John was great in God's eyes because he did God's will with all his heart, soul, strength, and mind.
 - God measures greatness in terms of obedience to His will.
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2. Two Kinds of Witnesses (Luke 7:31-34)

- John preached hard and straight and he was completely separated from the world.
 - They said he had a devil
 - Jesus took it easy on the people and joined them at the dinner table and reached out to the lowest sinners in society.
 - They said he was a gluttonous winebibber, a friend of sinners.
 - They accused Him of being a worldly compromiser.
 - Don't let the accusations stop you from witnessing. Just preach Christ.
 - They don't want to hear it because they're condemned already, and your witness is shedding light on that fact (John 3:17-19).
 - Men don't want your witness no matter how you bring it to them. Keep preaching!
 - **"Wisdom is justified** (proclaimed right) **of all her children"** (vs 35).
 - A child of God knows what is right and will say so.
 - Witnessing is right "in season and out of season" (2 Tim 4:2).
 - Christians may have different motives for witnessing, but they know it's right to witness (Philippians 1:15-18).
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3. Jesus Forgives a Sinner (Luke 7:36-50)

Vs 36 Jesus accepted the invitation to eat with a Pharisee. He didn't refuse the man for being a despised Pharisee. He came to save all sinners (Luke 19:10).

Vs 37 This woman is identified as being "a sinner." That's her testimony among everyone that knows her.

Vs 38 The woman may have been characterized by a sinful life, but she demonstrated that underneath it all she had a soft, tender heart, ready to submit to the Lord.

- Be careful that you don't neglect to witness to a "*bad sinner*," thinking that there's "*no hope for them*." You'll be pleased to find out that they are the ones who are "ripe for the picking."
- King David (a type of Christ) received men who were in Distress, in Debt, and Discontented (1 Sam 22:2).
 - Those who find themselves in a hopeless situation often turn to the Lord. He doesn't condemn the one who turns to him. He's the only one who can help.

- Women more naturally devoted themselves to Jesus than men did (Luke 8:2-3; 23:27, 49, 55; 24:22-23; Matt 27:55-56; Mk 15:40-41).
 - A woman who despises Christ is most hellish.

39-40 Simon the Pharisee thought to himself that Jesus must not be a prophet or else He wouldn't let a sinful woman touch him. Jesus answered his THOUGHTS! (See Psalm 49:9-11).

41-42 Jesus told a parable to show Simon that he was just as much a debtor as the woman was. He owed a debt that he could not pay (as do we all)!

- Be careful you don't go around looking at other sinners (sodomites, adulterers, drunkards, etc) thinking that they don't deserve Heaven, but you do. Nobody deserves Heaven, but Christ paid the debt for ALL sinners!

43-44 Jesus turned to the woman while he spoke to Simon. He wanted Simon to see what true repentance looked like. Stop looking at the outward appearance and see her heart.

45-47 The actions of this woman demonstrate to us that a person who has lived a sinful life will most likely have the greatest love for Jesus because they had a greater debt that the Lord forgave.

- Christians tend to look upon other people's sins and judge them as terrible sinners.
 - They see other people's sins of commission; wrong things that they do.
- They fail to recognize they their OWN sins of OMISSION are just as bad or worse (James 4:17, Matt 23:23, Lk 12:42).
 - The Pharisee was guilty of this sin. He failed to love and worship the Lord as he should have.
 - Consider your own approach to the Lord. Do you boldly go before the Lord in prayer as though you deserve that privilege? We need to be humble and devoted like this woman was.

Vs 48 **"Thy sins are forgiven."** Not, "were" forgiven. Not, "will be" forgiven. We're not waiting for forgiveness of sins. They were all paid for by Jesus Christ at the cross of Calvary. (Rom 4:7, Eph 1:7).

Vs 49 People at the table scoffed at Jesus for claiming to have the power to forgive sins. Jesus did not respond to their unbelief. Lesson: don't argue and debate with unbelievers. Minister to the people who will receive the word that you are proclaiming.

Vs 50 Jesus told the woman **"Thy faith hath saved thee."** It is important to notice that her faith was evident by her works (by her actions). James 2:14-24 discusses how true faith will produce works that can be observed by others as proof of your faith.

Religious people scoff at and ridicule a new believer and run them out of the church for fear that the new believer will upset the traditions and teachings of the religion. The new believer will enjoy reading the Bible and drawing nigh to Jesus and being comforted by Him and reassured of their salvation. Don't worry when other people condemn you. Jesus Christ is the one who justified you (See Rom 8:33-34).

The Devil will also work on you, trying to get you to doubt your salvation. He'll try to get your heart to condemn you. Your heart MAY condemn you, but the Bible says God is GREATER than our heart! (1 Jn 3:20). There is now NO condemnation! (Rom 8:1).