

Simon and the Sinner

Luke 7:36-50

East Berlin Community Church

Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook

January 26, 2025

Introduction

- What motivates you to do what you do?
- The “Cost” of following Jesus.
 - Matthew 10:37-- *“He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.”*
 - Luke 9:23-- *“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”*
- **What sufficient cause would motivate a person to give up their life to follow Jesus?**

Simon and the Sinner

A. The SCENE

- Luke 7:36-39-- *“Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee’s house, and sat down to eat. 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, 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. 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.”*
1. **Jesus accepts invitation to Simon’s for dinner!**
 - a. **Jesus socialized with full spectrum of society if invited.**
 - Luke 7:34-- *“glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.”*
 - Luke 5:31-- *“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.”*
 - b. **Possible reasons for invitation**
 - 1). **To observe Jesus rather than honor Him**
 - 2). **To check out if Jesus is the “Great prophet”**
 - Luke 7:16-- *““A great prophet has risen up among us”; and, “God has visited His people.”*
 - Luke 7:17-- *“this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region.”*
 - 3). **To try to catch Jesus in a gaffe**
 - Luke 6:7-- *“the scribes and Pharisees watched Him closely, whether He would heal on the Sabbath, that they might find an accusation against Him.”*
 2. **Hospitality Customs in Jesus’ day**
 - a. Open Courtyard Dining
 - b. Laying at the table
 3. **Introduction of the “Sinner”**
 - a. Possible reasons she’s been labeled “the sinner”
 - b. Her actions in paying homage to Jesus
 4. **Simon’s Offense**
 - a. Toward the woman: *How dare she?*
 - b. Toward Jesus: *How could he?*

B. The STORY: Parable of the Two Debtors

1. The Story Told

- Luke 7:40-43-- *“And Jesus answered and said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” So he said, “Teacher, say it.” “There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?” Simon answered and said, “I suppose the one whom he forgave more.” And He said to him, “You have rightly judged.”*

2. The Story Amplified

- Luke 7:44-46-- *“Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.”*

- a. **Exposes the shabby treatment of the host**
- b. **Exposes the humble, loving treatment of “the sinner”**

3. The Story Applied

- Luke 7:47 -- *Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.”*

- a. **Jesus did know the woman who was touching Him.**
- b. **Jesus knew that the transformation process had already taken place in her.** Her sins had already been forgiven. **She had been saved “by faith”**
 - Luke 7:50-- *“Then He said to the woman, ‘Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.’”*
- c. **Jesus identifies the proper motive for loving Him as gratitude for forgiveness.**

4. The Story Extended: Paul as “Simon” and the “Sinner”

- a. **Paul as “Simon”, the self-righteous Pharisee**
 - Philippians 3:5b-6-- *“Concerning the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.”*
- b. **Paul’s life transformed by his encounter with the risen Christ.**
 - 1) **He clearly sees the nature of his self-righteous acts and now considers them rubbish.**
 - Philippians 3:8-9-- *“Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.”*
 - Philippians 3:10-- *“know Him, that is Christ, and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, becoming conformed to His death.”*
 - 2) **He clearly sees the depth of his depravity.**
 - 1 Timothy 1:12-14-- *“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.”*

- 1 Timothy 1:15-16-- *“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.”*
- 3) **He never forgot that he had been forgiven much.**
- 1 Corinthians 15:8-10-- *“last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.”*
- 4) **Because he had been forgiven much, Paul loved much and labored harder than anyone else.**