



A GENUINE WORSHIPPER

March 14, 2021

Luke 7:36-50

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MESSAGE NOTES

*Jesus didn't run from sin, He put sin on the run. He didn't fret about corpses or invalids, blood or open sores, whores or lepers, demoniacs or Gentiles. He didn't flinch from brushing His robe or His hand against sin and sinners and worry that He'd thereby stained His unblemished purity. He got very close to all and sundry, reaching out to touch, to embrace, because His holiness exerted an irresistible power over the unholy. Unholy things had no power to corrupt Him. Unclean things had no power to taint Him. They either submitted to His influence or fled. — Mark Buchanan, *Your Church Is Too Safe: Why Following Christ Turns the World Upside-Down**

*In the eyes of the first-century spiritual elite, Jesus was a conundrum. His life was a thousand-piece puzzle with no photo on the box, and they failed miserably every time they tried to put it together. His provocative and disarming teaching confounded them, and His choice of friends unnerved them. Jesus seemed to take great pleasure in befriending people on the Pharisees' Ten Most Unwanted list. These pious and perfectionist patriarchs burst into fits of rage every time Jesus connected with someone on their list. Unscrupulous tax collectors, untouchable lepers, unclean prostitutes, unlearned fishermen, undesirable Samaritans and uncouth Roman soldiers regularly found their faces on posters throughout Jerusalem marked "Unwanted: Dead or Alive." But remarkably and incredibly these same faces consistently found themselves sitting alongside Jesus at the table of community. But that shouldn't be surprising, unless you're a Pharisee. — Bill Donahue, *In The Company of Jesus**

1. We've all been released from a huge debt, so to look down on anyone else makes no sense at all.

*I really believe part of what it means to be spiritually healthy is to avoid losing touch with one's own depravity. I must hold in balance my blessedness and brokenness. Yes, I am more blessed than I can even fathom, but I am also more broken than I can grasp. Even though I've been redeemed and the "old man" has been crucified, I still live in a fallen world and the seduction of the flesh is still an everyday battle. — Lance Witt, *Replenish**

2. Regardless of appearances, our fallenness is very much a reality, which is why daily surrender to God is so essential.

I don't know what the heart of a bad man is like, but I do know what the heart of a good man is like and it is terrible. — Ivan Turgenev

3. We all need grace, and grace is what God lavishes us because of Christ's sacrifice in our place.

*In the end, we must acknowledge the darkness within us and the light that comes only from God. Both are unrelenting, and both define every moment of our life. Every atom in our bodies is infected by the disease of sin, but every atom may likewise be covered in the grace of God. The only requirement comes in two supreme realizations: first, that we are totally contaminated; second, that we are totally forgiven only through the love and grace and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. — David Jeremiah, *Captured By Grace**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. — 2 Corinthians 5:17 –19

Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. — 1 Timothy 1:13 – 16

TALK IT OVER

- What was something you recall from ENCOUNTER this past weekend?
- Jesus has been performing great miracles and teaching with great authority. One day, he accepts a dinner invitation into an astute citizen's household, and surprising things happen!
- Have someone read Luke 7:36 – 50. In verses 36 – 39, how is the woman described? What different emotions does she express here? How do you think she feels about herself?
- In verse 39, how does Simon, the host, react to this uninvited guest? How do you think he feels about himself? How does he feel about Jesus?
- Jesus responds to Simon with a story in verses 40 – 43. Notice all the facts. What is the point of the story? What is the significance of the creditor canceling the debts?
- Notice the interesting turn that Jesus takes toward Simon in verses 44 – 47. How is Simon's approach to Jesus different from the woman?
- In verse 47, what is the response that Jesus wants in those whom he forgives? What do you think Jesus meant by the line in verse 47 "he who has been forgiven little loves little?" What does that teach us about understanding the true nature of our sin and God's forgiveness. (See Colossians 2:13).
- What is significant about Jesus' words in verse 48? Since only God can forgive sins, and Jesus forgave sins, what is he saying about himself? How do the guests respond (verse 49)?
- How do you think the woman felt in verse 50? How has she shown faith? According to the witness of this woman, what is true faith in Jesus?
- What would it mean in practical ways for you to love Jesus the way this woman did?