

MEET YOURSELF IN LUKE'S PARABLES

Part 2: The Parable of the Two Debtors (7:36-50)

INTRO: Studying the unique parables in Luke's gospel. Dr. Luke was a gentile physician and traveling companion of Paul. He was not an eye witness of Jesus' life and ministry. He got most of his information from Mark (who with Paul) and Matthew (one of the 12). 50% of Mark found in Luke. But 59% of Luke is unique, mostly in Chs. 10-19, where 18 of 19 unique parables are found. Our first unique parable comes earlier in Ch. 7.

THEME/FLOW: Luke 19:10 provides theme and outline. The "Son of Man" COMES (1:1-4:13), SEEKS (4:14-19:27), SAVES (19:28-24:53). When come to Ch. 7 we are in the second year of the public ministry of Jesus in region of Galilee. Last weeks map of Palestine at the time of Jesus. See last week's Life of Christ..." On his first preaching tour enjoying increasing popularity. At Capernaum He completed selection of disciples (6:12-16), SOM (6:17-49). When come to Ch. 7 He is still ministering in Capernaum 7:1-10 heals gentile centurion's servant; 7:11-17 resurrects dead son of a widow in Nain; probably returning to Capernaum entering conversation with followers of John the Baptist (7:18-35).

TODAY – Come to first unique parable. Remember CONTEXT is critical and searching for one main truth. "Is Jesus great than a prophet?" (v.26) Read Lk. 7:36-50... As a prophet, Jesus knew the sins of the woman (immorality) and of Pharisee Simon (pride). As God our Savior He was able to do for the repentant woman the greatest miracle of all – forgiveness (5:17-26). A reoccurring theme for Dr. Luke is Jesus is a "friend of sinners" – all sinners (v.34; 5:30, 32; 6:32; 15:1-2) –respectable and despicable.

MAIN TRUTH Jesus is God and has the authority and power to offer free and full forgiveness to all who repent and believe in Him.

THE PARABLE

I. A GRATEFUL WOMAN (vv.36-38)

- A. Dinner invitation accepted (v.36) – Also in 11:37; 14:1). Why did Pharisee Simon invite Jesus? Discredit. Dinner would be in a courtyard open to interested observers. Upon arrival Simon failed to perform the common customs: wash feet, anoint oil, kiss. Tension already!
- B. Sinner's interruption (vv.37-38). A woman of the streets grateful for her forgiveness and transformation. She does what Simon had failed to do. She acted more gracious as a sinner than Simon as a "righteous" man.

II. A CRITICAL HOST (vv.39-43)

- A. Simon's judgmental thoughts of her and Jesus (v.39).
- B. Jesus' powerful parable (vv.40-43). Simon's problem like too many religious people was full of spiritual pride. He refused to see himself as a sinner in desperate need of forgiveness.

III. A FORGIVING SAVIOR (vv.44-50)

- A. Confronting Simon's pride (vv.44-46) -
- B. Reassurance of forgiveness (vv.47-48)
- C. Troubling question (v.49) – only God! (5:24)
- D. More reassurance (v.50)

LESSONS FROM MAIN TRUTH

Main truth...

1. *All need forgiveness.* All indebted to God, whether by immorality (woman) or spiritual pride (Simon), whether commission (what she did) or omission (what he didn't do), whether... All need forgiveness because we are all sinners. To find forgiveness we must see our sinfulness. I am more than a prophet. I am "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (Jn. 1:29).
2. *Forgiveness is God's free and full gift.* Only God can forgive (vv.42,48-49). We can't purchase it by our goodness, nor lose it by our badness. Though free to everyone, it cost God everything – He took the loss. Jesus' life and death paid our sin's debt. Resurrection stamped it "Paid in full." Col. 1:14; 2:13-14; Eph. 1:7
3. *Forgiveness brings life change.* She was radically changed, She was a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17). Jesus gave her *new assurance* and security (vv.47-48). All is completely forgiven. She had *new love*. Our love for Christ is in proportion to the awareness of our sins and what Christ has done for us. Lastly, she had a *new peace*. Literally Jesus told her to, "Go into peace" (v.50).

CONC: She left forgiven and transformed. Simon remained spiritually proud and unchanged because he refused to see his sin. He easily saw the sins of others but would not see his own. Was Jesus a prophet? Absolutely. But more than that, He was and is the Great Forgiver!