

THE TWO DEBTORS

Luke 7:36-50, ESV – One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. ³⁷ And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, ³⁸ and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."

⁴¹ "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷ Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." ⁴⁸ And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Notes:

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SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of August 4, 2019

Luke 7:36-50

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This weekend we were reminded that while humans may judge and categorize people based on sin, God does not. Scripture is clear that all have sinned and are in need of a savior. How have you judged and categorized people based on sin? Have you thought of yourself more highly as a result? Explain.
- 2 The Pharisee depended on his works to affirm his status before God. Based on the parable, what is necessary to affirm our status before God? Describe a time that you may have been tempted to use your works to justify yourself. How did you avoid this temptation?
- 3 Have you ever felt an overwhelming gratitude for being forgiven, like this woman? How have you shown your appreciation?

DIGGING DEEPER

- A **John 8:13-16, ESV** – *So the Pharisees said to him, "You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true."¹⁴ Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going."¹⁵ You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.¹⁶ Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me.*
- 4 When looking at the passage above we read that the Pharisees judged differently from God. Compare and contrast these two judgements.

5 What is the motivation for the way the Pharisees judge? What is the motivation for the way Jesus and the Father judge? Which judge would you prefer to stand before? Why?

6 In what ways have you judged like the Pharisees?

B *Mark 5:24-34, ESV – And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. ²⁵ And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. ²⁸ For she said, “If I touch even his garments, I will be made well.” ²⁹ And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my garments?” ³¹ And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’ ” ³² And he looked around to see who had done it. ³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”*

7 Looking at the passage above, describe the relationship between faith and forgiveness.

8 Consider the statement, “virtue is the antonym of sin.” How can living a life based on this statement be problematic?

C *Gal 2:15-21, ESV – We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; ¹⁶ yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified. ¹⁷ But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we too were found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! ¹⁸ For if I rebuild what I tore down, I prove myself to be a transgressor. ¹⁹ For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.*

9 How is justification through Christ far greater than justification through the law?

10 Describe a time when you witnessed someone come to know Christ and they were extremely excited and grateful. What were the circumstances in their life that would cause that type of reaction?

TAKING IT HOME

No matter how great or how small our sins may be, we are all still sinners. There is nothing we can do, in and of ourselves, to save ourselves from eternal separation from God. Our only option is faith in Christ and His work on the cross. Have you truly trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of your sins? If not, talk with your life group leader. If you have, then share what Christ has done for you with someone else.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

2 Samuel 15:5

Psalm 23:3

Matt 10:52

Mark 9:2

Luke 5:21-24

Luke 7:39

Eph 2:8

1 Tim 5:10