

April 21, 2024



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

The lavish cost of the perfume wasn't the point. It was Mary's investment of her love in action that mattered. A relationship with Jesus results in a response.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Father, open my eyes to see You inviting me to do what I can today.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial.

(Mark 14:8 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread," May 19, 2021)

Series: Examining Our Faith

UNIT 1: Faithful vs. Faithless

NEXT WEEK

Faith of a Canaanite
(Matthew 15:21-28)

Faith of an Anointer Luke 7:36-39, 44-50

Lesson Background and Key Verse

Just prior to the events of today's lesson, Luke summarized two viewpoints toward Jesus that had emerged. Those viewpoints are revealed by reactions to John the Baptist. On the one hand, "All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged that God's way was right, because they had been baptized by John" (Luke 7:29). On the other hand, "the Pharisees and the experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John" (7:30). Rejection of John the Baptist, the Christ's forerunner (1:15-17; 3:1-20; 7:33-35), meant rejecting the Christ as well (Matthew 17:12). This set the stage for a contrast between those who held these polar-opposite viewpoints.

As an oversimplification, we can see the tax collectors as a demographic that represented the first view above. These Jews had chosen to work with the Romans to extract taxes from their fellow Jews, thereby earning great scorn as collaborators. Tax collectors could become wealthy by overcharging taxes (see Luke 19:2, 8).

The Pharisees, by contrast, can be seen as primary representatives of the second viewpoint above. Pharisees advocated strict and scrupulous observance of the Law of Moses. Over time, this resulted in human traditions being added to that law. See Jesus' critique of this fact in Matthew 23:1-36 and Mark 7:1-23.

The first-century Jewish historian Josephus estimated that there were only about 6,000 Pharisees throughout the Roman empire. Perhaps no more than a few hundred lived in the villages of Galilee. Yet they exerted an influence out of proportion to their numbers, as witnessed by their being mentioned about 100 times in the New Testament. (By contrast, Sadducees are mentioned only 14 times.)

Today's lesson takes us to an early point in Jesus' ministry when things had gotten serious enough for Pharisees to come from "every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem" to investigate him (Luke 5:17). The nearest example up to the point of today's lesson is Jesus' having been in the village of Nain, about 25 miles southwest of Capernaum (7:11). Combining that fact with information in Luke 8:1, 22, and 26, we conclude that a village in Galilee was the location of today's lesson

Key Verse: Luke 7:50

Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Faith in Worship (Luke 7:36-39)

Worship with the knowledge we are sinners (36-37)

We are sinners because we have fallen short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23)

We are sinners because of accountability to God (Rom 3:19)

We are sinners because the whole world is a prisoner of sin (Gal 3:22)

We are sinners because no one is without sin (1 John 1:8)

Worship through offerings (38)

An offering done willingly (2 Cor 8:12)

An offering offered right (Gen 4:2-7)

An offering given out of love (Eph 5:1-2)

An offering that is sacrificial (Phil 4:16-18)

Worship without judging (39)

Do not judge because judging condemns us (Rom 2:1-3)

Do not judge because everyone is under God's rule (Rom 14:4)

Do not judge because everyone will eventually be judged by God (Rom 14:10)

Do not judge because there is an appointed time for judgment (1 Cor 4:5)

Faith that Saves (Luke 7:44-50)

Saved results in service (44-46)

Service starts with offering self to God (Rom 12:1)

Service done with steadfast commitment (Acts 21:12-14)

Service reaps rewards (Mark 10:29-31)

Service done in accordance to God's will (2 Cor 8:3-5)

Saved through forgiveness (47-48)

Forgiveness where God will not remember sins any more (Heb 8:12)

Forgiveness that sanctifies (Acts 26:17-18)

Forgiveness that rescues from a dominion of darkness (Col 1:13-14)

Forgiveness that is through Jesus' blood (Matt 26:28)

Saved through the power of God (49)

Because the power of God saves (1 Cor 1:18)

Because the power of God is manifested in those God has called (1 Cor 1:24)

Because the power of God demolishes all evil strongholds (2 Cor 10:4)

Because the power of God works in those who believe (1 Thess 2:13)

Saved through reconciliation (50)

Reconciliation through Jesus' blood (Col 1:18-20)

Reconciliation through Jesus' death (Rom 5:10)

Reconciliation so that men's sins will not be counted against them (2 Cor 5:18-19)

Reconciliation by Jesus' physical body (Col 1:22)