

Apr 10, 2016



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
To put your fears to rest, put your faith in Christ

POEM FOR THE WEEK:
The godless ponder death with fear— For what's ahead they cannot see; But those who put their faith in Christ Look forward to eternity. —Sper

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures
(1 Cor 15:3-4 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", May 6, 2000)

Series: The Gift of Faith

UNIT: Restorative Faith

NEXT WEEK

Recovered Faith
(Luke 8:26-36)

Saving Faith Luke 7:36-50

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reviews the humble sincerity of **Saving Faith**. The **study's aim** is to learn a fresh grasp of our sinfulness and God's grace. The **study's application** is to put our faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and to show acts of love for and to Him.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

During college, my favorite student organization was the prison ministry. Once a month, a group of students would conduct a service there. It had worship, a short message, and group prayer. I enjoyed fellowshiping with my brothers behind bars. These men were elated to commune with us. Prayer time was especially precious to one. In prison he had become a follower with a passionate faith. His witness had drawn many to Jesus. His love for Christ was almost tangible. A few months after I started going, this man approached me. He looked at me and said, "Sister, I want to tell you just how Jesus saved me. Can I?" At my nod, he proceeded to reveal his background and gang involvement. Then he said something stunning. "Sister, I killed someone." He went on to talk about how he had been saved. "Sister," he concluded, "Jesus cleaned me up and gave me this ministry, and I love Him so much. He forgave me of everything, scoundrel that I am." That moment I realized how little I valued God's forgiveness. I had never done anything illegal. By society's standards, I was the better person. Yet he, not I, was brimming with joy. He made my love for Jesus look like a candle flame next to a wildfire. The same can be said about the people in this week's lesson. The woman had a reputation. Everyone knew her as the town prostitute. They were repulsed by her appearance at the feast and even more by her actions. Yet this woman was showing the depth of her love for Christ. By wiping Jesus' feet, she demonstrated her willingness to do the crudest of tasks for Him. In using her hair, she offered her whole heart. The ointment was precious. In using it, she proved her readiness to give up her most costly possession. This also showed her eagerness to trust Christ for provision and turn away from her profession. She was willing to go to any extreme for the Saviour she adored. She would lay down her entire life. Simon, though, was only half in. While he attended temple, he was not devoted to God. His heart was divided. He was self-sufficient and did not feel the need for Jesus. He had lived a moral life. It was the woman Jesus forgave. When Christ told her that God was willing to forgive the mess she had made of her life, it was huge. She had felt that she could never again be right with God. In telling this parable, Jesus made Simon take a hard look at himself. Christ revealed that Simon was lacking in faith and love. The woman was saved because she came to Jesus and offered her loyal love, while Simon thought he could make it without Jesus. There are many who think that they can get by without Jesus. Sure, we say that we love Him; but do we? A saving faith is one in which nothing is held back. There is no room for compromise. Moral behavior will not save us. Our good works are filthy rags next to His righteousness (Isa. 64:6). When we consider how He has rescued us, it should make us pause. Our love must be such that we are willing to place all that we have and are into His hands, for any purpose. This is what the woman understood. That is the level of devotion in a saving faith and what we are called to in our daily walk.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

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 IN LOVE (LUKE 7:40-47)

Love through thankfulness (40-43)

Thankful for all things (Phil 4:6)

Pray and give thanksgiving for others (1 Tim 2:1)

Thankful through worshiping God (Heb 12:28)

Thankful for God's blessings (Luke 17:12-19)

Love through actions (44-47)

Actions to love others (1 John 4:21)

Actions to edify others (John 21:15-18)

Actions that lead to obedience (1 John 2:4-6)

FAITH THAT SAVES (LUKE 7:48-50)

Saved through forgiveness (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)