

Oct 27, 2019



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester

Deacon: C M Hester

Grateful Faith Luke 7:37-48

Lesson Background and Introduction

Jesus was invited to dine in the home of a Pharisee (Luke 7:36). The Pharisee's motive for this invitation is not given immediately. He may have wanted a time of quiet conversation with Jesus (compare the Pharisee Nicodemus in John 3). More likely, the Pharisee had less than honorable intentions. By this time in Jesus' ministry, the Pharisees have already shown themselves to be hostile to Jesus' work. Luke 6:1-11 records two events in which they opposed Jesus. We might be surprised that Jesus accepted the invitation in the first place knowing the potential hostility of His host. If so, we'll be even more surprised to learn that He accepts at least one more such invitation (Luke 11:37). The Pharisee's invitation in today's lesson does not mention any other guests, not even whether Jesus' disciples were invited. But apparently others were included in the invitation, perhaps additional Pharisees, since "they . . . sat at meat with him" and judged what they saw and heard while eating (Luke 7:49). Their presence as well as their attitude adds to our suspicion that Jesus was invited to this dinner as an occasion to mock or question Him in some way (see Luke 7:44). This dinner party occurred not long after the centurion's servant was healed. The dinner in the Pharisee's home happens sometime after those events (7:36). Following today's text, Jesus toured "every city and village" of Galilee (8:1), so the anointing in the Pharisee's home could have been in nearly any of them. Each of the Gospels reports on an anointing of Jesus by a woman while Jesus was attending a dinner. As a result, some believe each reports on the same event. While showing some similarities, the anointing recorded in the other Gospels (see Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8) is almost certainly a separate, later event (see John 12:1). Each of the other accounts locates the event in Bethany in Judea (Matthew 26:6; Mark 14:3; John 12:1), while Luke's account belongs to the Galilean ministry (Luke 4:14-9:51). John specifically identifies the woman as Mary of Bethany, whose reputation is certainly not that of a notorious sinner (compare Luke 7:37 with John 11:1-5, 28-32).

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

The Power of Forgiveness - Simon, a Pharisee, invited Jesus into his home. A woman who seemed to be a well-known sinner or prostitute in the community followed Jesus to Simon's home. Jesus used the opportunity to teach about the enormous restorative power of God's forgiveness. The woman brought with her a very expensive gift, an alabaster flask of fragrant oil. One can only imagine the tension in the room when she directed her attention solely on Jesus. She washed His feet with her tears, wiped them with her hair, and then anointed them with the oil. The scene violated all kinds of social graces, but it expressed her love and appreciation for Jesus.

Questioning Jesus - Finally, Simon broke the silence in the room but not with a word spoken aloud. He inwardly responded to this woman's actions and questioned Jesus. A true prophet, he thought, would know what kind of woman this is who is touching Him. Jesus must be ignorant of this woman's identity. Instead, Jesus understood her heart. Jesus also saw deeply within the soul of everyone in the room. The woman at Jesus' feet got the prize for being the most grateful for the Lord. Jesus read Simon's mind and answered his troubling thoughts with a story.

A Parable about Forgiveness - The story revolved around a businessperson who had two people who owed him money. One owed a big sum and the other a small amount. Neither had the money to repay their debt, but the businessman forgave them both. When Jesus asked which one showed more appreciation, Simon said, obviously, the greater debtor.

Forgiven and Moving Forward - Jesus then pointed out to Simon that He had come into Simon's house and was offered no water for foot washing, no oil for His head, nor a customary kiss. But this woman, detestable in the eyes of society, did all three for Jesus. He addressed her multitude of sins and stamped them forgiven. She humbly bowed before Him, He elevated her status by pardoning her past life, and He sent her away with a new outlook on herself and her future life. Intellectually getting to know all about Jesus is a good thing. But this biblical account goes one step further. It encourages an extravagant outpouring of love for Christ, not merely a passing or intellectual acknowledgment. When we look at the sacrifice on the Cross, it should cause our hearts to overflow with gratitude and appreciation for our Savior.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Lord, thanks for being You

COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:

Psalm 100 demonstrates an appreciation of God for who He is, not simply for all He does

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name

(Ps 100:4 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Dec 03, 2018)

Series: Responding to God's Grace

UNIT: Faith Leads to Holy Living

NEXT WEEK

Faith That is Tested
(2 Cor 13:1-11)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Grateful Faith in Worship (Luke 7:37-39)

Worship with the knowledge we are sinners (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)

Grateful Faith in Love (Luke 7:40-48)

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)

Love 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)