

## “Who Is This That Forgives Sins?”

S.R. Luke 7:36 – 39

3 – 3 - 2024

Intro. How do you see Jesus?

- A. People reacted in strange ways when they met Jesus.
  - 1. He made a sudden impact with those who interacted with him.
  - 2. Multitudes sat for hours hanging on his every word.
  - 3. Others became his murderers.
  - 4. After His death his followers refused to deny Him even if it meant torture and death.
- B. What caused people to be so devoted to Jesus?
- C. Were all these people fooled by a charismatic dreamer?
- D. Or were they truly touched by a man who was also God?
- E. Today you will encounter the same Jesus who brought transformation to so many.
- F. We will meet Simon, a Pharisee, and a woman, a sinner. The two would never be the same again.
- G. And you will also learn why Jesus is such a compelling person and hopefully, you will never be the same again either.
- H. **Luke 7:29 - 50 Read text.** “Who is this *man* who even forgives sins?” (v. 49)
- I. We will learn about both Simon and the woman, but the story speaks volumes about the identity and mission of Jesus. **Who was he and why was He here?**
- J. You and I are in the story. We are either more like Simon or more like the woman.
- K. What can we learn about Simon? The woman? Jesus? And ourselves?

### I. Who Was Simon?

- A. A Pharisee (v. 36) a religious person.
- B. Simon failed to show common courtesy to Jesus.
- C. He challenged Jesus’ claim to be a prophet. (v. 39)
- D. Bottom line: Simon was guilty of sin. Although a Pharisee and religiously devoted.
- E. **Two enemies of the truth:**
  - 1. **Unrighteousness (Romans 1:18)**
    - a. The woman had chosen unrighteousness
    - b. Folks hold down the truth in their lives because they love unrighteousness
  - 2. **Self – righteousness**
- F. Self – righteousness prevented Simon from receiving forgiveness. What about me?

### II. Who Was the Woman?

- A. Luke does not record what the sin was?

- B. She was not invited to the dinner.
  - 1. Pharisees condemned Jesus for eating with *sinners*. (7:34; 15:2)
- C. She, although uninvited, showed common courtesy to Jesus.
  - 1. She kissed him, she washed his feet, she anointed him with oil.
  - 2. She recognized Jesus and responded in humility and contrition. (v. 44 – 48)
- D. “Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.” (v. 47)
  - 1. **(Titus 3:3 – 8)**
- E. Our love for God is proportionate to our memory of past sins. Restate (7:47)
  - 1. The more we remember our past sins the more we will love God and one another.
  - 2. **(Ephesians 2:1 – 5)** Where we were. We did what we wanted to do.
  - 3. What we can become is because of Christ. **(Eph. 3:20 – 21)**
  - 4. Am I appreciating the mercy of God (cf. Matthew 18:21 – 35)
- F. What was her sin? Don’t know. What is your sin? God knows and will forgive on His terms and only through His Son.

### III. Who Was Jesus?

- A. He was a prophet (Luke 7:39) at least a consideration. “If he were a prophet...”
- B. Pharisees doubted that Jesus was a prophet because he associated with sinners. (Luke 7:29 – 35) They had rejected the baptism of John.
- C. Jesus was a teacher – rabbi. (v. 40)
  - 1. Jesus was more than a first century Jewish rabbi.
  - 2. He was the master teacher (v. 49) grumbled –
  - 3. “Who is this who even forgives sins.”
- D. Jesus is able and willing to forgive our sins. (1 John 1:8 – 10)

### IV. Conclusion:

- A. **What about you and me?** We are somewhere in this story. More like:
  - 1. Simon: self – righteous and hypocritical.
  - 2. Woman – sinner and everyone knows it. Public disgrace.
  - 3. Both need forgiveness.
- B. **You have three options:** having been introduced to Jesus:
  - 1. You can stay the same as you are. Walk out of this assembly and walk out on Jesus.
  - 2. You can look for someone else or something else.
  - 3. You can bow before Jesus as Savior and King and accept His forgiveness and pardon.