



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Luke Sermon Series

Supports Session 12: Loved

Sermon Title: "Love vs. Indifference"

Passage: Luke 7:36-50

Connection to Luke 7

Luke had already presented Jesus as a healer (7:1-10), One who has the authority to raise the dead (7:11-17), and the One promised in the Scriptures (7:18-35). This account further confirms His Person and His Work as One with the authority to forgive sins (7:36-50).

Introduction/Opening

Luke mentions thirteen women who are not mentioned anywhere else in the Gospel accounts. He includes the widow at Nain, women who helped in the ministry of Jesus, and women grieving as Jesus went to the cross. Luke includes women in the birth and resurrection narratives. Luke also presents Jesus ministering to women. There is a universal aspect of the Gospel of Luke reaching all kinds of people in all phases of life and situations. If the Gospel of Mark is for the Roman world and the Gospel of Matthew is for the Jewish world, then the Gospel of Luke is for the whole world. In this passage, there are contrasting responses to the Lord Jesus—one of love and one of indifference.

Outline

1. Two Very Different People

a. The Woman

She is described as a sinner. Apparently, she had no formal religious affiliation. She obviously did not attend the local synagogue. She had lived a life of sin, and everybody knew it.

b. The Pharisee, Simon

Simon likely could have been a leader in the local synagogue. He would never have approached such a woman who was now in his house. He had lived a very religious life, and everybody knew it.

2. Two Very Different Motives

a. The Woman

She came to Jesus in an act of loving devotion to Him. Whatever this woman had been she was no longer. Perhaps she had heard Jesus preaching in the marketplace and the Word penetrated her heart. She felt such a sacrifice of thanksgiving was necessary for the One who had changed her life. She stood behind Jesus's feet, and overwhelmed with either remorse and repentance or joy over forgiveness, she was weeping.

She ignored the social propriety because of her deep love for Him. She kissed his feet repeatedly (an act of reverence and devotion) and anointed them with the costly perfume.

b. The Pharisee, Simon

Verse 39 gives a possible motive. Simon had heard of the things the Lord Jesus had done. Perhaps he wanted to see if this man were really a prophet.

When the woman came and touched Jesus, Simon was offended.

Hendriksen said, “Self-righteous Simon did not understand—or did not want to believe—that Jesus associated with sinners *in order that they might be converted and saved.*”¹ He also did not understand or did not want to believe that he was a sinner who needed salvation as desperately as this woman.

3. Two Very Different Responses

The Lord Jesus affirmed her experience. He said, “Your sins are forgiven...your faith has saved you. Go in peace.” Simon likely questioned His authority to forgive sins. The woman did not. She left in peace. She had peace because she had received salvation.

Conclusion

In this story in Luke 6, there is a clear contrast in the responses of Simon the Pharisee and the woman. When a person encounters Jesus, he or she must respond in some way. Some people deny their need for forgiveness, thinking they are “good enough” on their own and don’t need to repent. Others see clearly their sin and need for a Savior. Every person needs the salvation and forgiveness that Jesus offers. Sadly, not everyone is willing to humbly admit that need and repent.

For those who do respond and receive the forgiveness of Jesus, the next response is one of joy and thanksgiving, as the woman in this story displayed.

Have you responded with love or indifference to Jesus? How is your life different because of what He has done in your life?

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1. Ibid., 407.