

09/05/04 – “FORGIVEN MUCH – LOVE MUCH”

“Evangelism is one beggar telling another beggar where to get bread.” – Martin Luther

The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation – not merely psychological insights or a system of beliefs

One of the great traits of Apostle Paul was that he never forgot who he was – “Chiefest of sinners, least of apostles, least of saints”

We forget – Can lose humility of heart – It’s through humility God’s grace is given to us

Luke 7:36-39 – A story of a Pharisee, a Woman & Jesus

Simon the Pharisee wanted to “check Jesus out” – Not against Jesus – nor for Jesus – He was a sharp contrast to **“the woman of ill repute”**

“The woman” was immoral – Most likely a prostitute who sold her body to make a living & survive

She comes to Jesus with all her sin, brings expensive oil...weeping, so grateful...uses her hair to wipe His feet

Not a sensual thing – Not a religious thing – But one of brokenness, surrendering totally to Lord – She is broken, contrite, grateful

Her encounter with Jesus is the end of her life as a prostitute – Out of darkness into wonderful light – Has repented in thought, word & deed

She was broken – **Her great love was evident because of her great forgiveness** – She was repentant & contrite to Jesus her Savior

Simon “thought to himself” that Jesus would not have anything to do with her **if He was a prophet**

Many of us talk to ourselves & make misplaced judgments about things, people & even God

The Bible tells us not **to compare ourselves with ourselves** – If we do that we are without understanding

We can **hide from each other & can try** to hide from God, but **there is nothing hidden from His sight**

Luke 7:40-42 – Parable of Two Debtors – Bankruptcy by Degrees

Simon was spiritually bankrupt & was trying to serve God as a Pharisee...saw himself as “better off” as he compared her sinfulness to his

The woman’s sinfulness was not only obvious to her but also to everyone else...She needed God’s redemption & forgiveness

Debtors of “50 denari” are bankrupt – Debtors of “500 denari” are bankrupt – Regardless of amount, we have no ability to pay the debt

Jesus warns us of a danger of not seeing ourselves correctly before God...Being self-righteous

If we are “good” by human standards, we are still bankrupt by God’s standards & need the forgiveness & restoration of Christ

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...” – Romans 3:23 Every human being is a sinner in need of the Savior

How Much Have You Been Forgiven?

For us to have much love we need to have much forgiveness – **He who is forgiven much loves much**

Jesus might not get our devotion & love because we don’t know who He is or what He’s done for us

Did God get a good deal when He got you? Were you so good that He didn’t need to die on the cross for you?

If we think that redemption is about our intellect, status, pedigree or anything we do, we miss the heart of Gospel

Christ’s forgiveness is complete & totally cleansing...His grace enables us to repent of our sins sets on the right course for life

Simon loved Jesus so very little because **Simon thought** he needed so little forgiveness – Showed no expression of love or devotion

The woman knew who she was, what she had been & had saving faith in Jesus – Full of love, gratitude & humility

“...but to be fervent and importune in prayer, how many dry prayers, how few wet ones do we offer up to God?” – Matthew Henry

One of the most fundamental marks of true repentance is the disposition to see our sins as God sees them

Compared to others some of us are pretty good...“a nice person”, honest, friendly, trying to do something for the Lord, etc.

Always remember that “we’re all in the woman’s condition” – We’re all bankrupt by degrees & unable to repay the debt of sin

We were lost & now found, we were blind & now see...**we all have fallen short of the glory of God – Romans 3:23**

We owed a debt we could not pay. He paid a debt He did not owe – The Divine Exchange...He takes our sin & we receive His righteousness

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” – 2 Corinthians 5:21

Hallelujah!