

Series: The Gospel of Luke

Sermon: Beautiful Forgiveness

Passage: Luke 7:36-50 (ESV)

Illustration:

Need: There is nothing more beautiful than a hopeless sinner who receives total forgiveness and peace from our loving and gracious God and Savior!

I. A Broken Sinner (7:36-38)

- It would not have been unusual for an uninvited guest to drop into a home where a rabbi was staying.
- The guests at the table leaned forward with their feet extended behind them.
- Her weeping showed her sorrow, her posture showed her submission, her use of her hair showed her humility, her kisses revealed her love, and her use of the expensive ointment showed her honor/worship of Jesus.

II. A Pompous Critic (7:39-40)

- The Pharisee, we will learn, is named Simon (not to be confused with Simon the leper in Mt 26 & Mk 14).
- It is unknown what motivated Simon to invite Jesus into his home.
- Through his lens of self-righteous judgement he surmised the unworthiness of the broken woman as well as defining Jesus as a false teacher from Nazareth.

III. A Revealing Illustration (7:41-47)

- Love for Jesus depends on one's self-awareness of sin and a belief in His ability to change it.
- Denial of one's own sinfulness results in contempt for the broken and a disinterest in the Good News.
- No one has less sin debt than anyone else. All are helpless in their need of forgiveness.
- The woman knew her need was great and came broken to Jesus seeking God's mercy.
- The Pharisee considered himself to be sufficiently righteous and intentionally dishonored Jesus by withholding common hospitality.

IV. A Forgiving Savior (7:48-50)

- In Luke 7:34 the Pharisees called Jesus "a friend of tax collectors and sinners."
- Jesus demonstrated acceptance of this woman but did not condone her sin.
- Jesus sees this woman through the eyes of love and grace and compassion.
- Jesus knew the need and the heart of both and would have forgiven them both but only one demonstrated repentance with faith in Him.
- Jesus again states His authority to forgive sins as he had done in Luke 5:20. This forgiveness was based in the eternal facts of His sacrificial death and bodily resurrection.
- That broken woman went home forgiven with peace in her heart!

V. Put it to practice!

- Learn repentance and sorrow over sin, and worship and love of Jesus from the broken woman.
- See what self-righteous judgement looks like from the pompous critic.
- Demonstrate the kind of grace and love and acceptance to others that you also received from Jesus.
- Come to the Savior to receive that same complete forgiveness and peace today.