

Encounters: Woman Anoints Jesus' Feet

October 10, 2009

Luke 7:36-50

Intro:

- Encounters: our hope for this series, that we would learn something, grow in someone as we investigate and focus on these encounters Jesus had.
- How do we approach Jesus

Luke 7:36-50

³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat.

- Jesus was known to eat with the sinners & tax collectors, but he also ate with some of the Pharisees, these always made for entertaining moments.
- The Pharisee "asked" Jesus to come eat, in some translations, it says that the Pharisee "desired" for Jesus to come and eat
- We don't need to assume that this Pharisee had malicious intent towards Jesus, however, as we watch what kind of host the Pharisee is and how he treats his guest, you do wonder.
- Did the Pharisee think it would help his rep? Might be good to have Jesus around for a little bit, pretend to like him, invite him in...only to ignore and be standoffish.
- None of you are hear, claiming a relationship with Jesus, because it helps your rep? It's good for business...? Good for your to further yourself in culture? Or maybe you do it just to keep the wife off your back?
- Don't know why, but the Pharisee did INVITE Jesus, Jesus was a GUEST.

³⁷ When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume.

- Prostitute, whore, sinful
- people were allowed to come in, she was uninvited & unwelcomed
- What did she think would happen? What was she seeking?
- You ever walk into the presence of God, maybe in your prayers, maybe that's here, and you don't know what it is you need, you just need to be close to Him?
- Whatever she is seeking, she brings a gift. Not common or cheap! No used up, or half-used, but full!

³⁸ Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them.

- She is broken, in tears.
- She knows what type of person she is, and realizes what type of person Jesus is, and she is brought to tears.
- She's in tears, the tears fall on Jesus' feet, she takes her hair and wipes his feet, washes his feet with her tears and hair.
- She then kisses his feet.
- Humility

- Then she took the perfume, the expensive perfume. Some say that this jar would need to be broken for her to pour the perfume on Jesus' feet.
- **This is worship!**
 - It's coming to Jesus, broken
 - It's taking a humble posture, because your heart is humbled
 - It's giving to him your best, your all, surrendering everything.

39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!"

- "he said to himself"
- When are these guys going to learn, that you can't get away with things
- His conditions for whether or not Jesus is a prophet is the people he allows to approach him. If Jesus were a prophet, he would know what type of person, the type of woman this was, a sinner."
- He judges the woman, and he judges Jesus.

40 Then Jesus answered his thoughts. "Simon," he said to the Pharisee, "I have something to say to you."

"Go ahead, Teacher," Simon replied.

- The Greek for "Go ahead" is "Uh-Oh"
- Jesus knows his thoughts
- "I have something to say to you." - How would you like to hear those words? What would Jesus say to you right now?

41 Then Jesus told him this story: "A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. 42 But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?"

- Both had their debts canceled
- "kindly" forgave them both, canceling the debts (not renegotiating the terms)
- NEITHER could repay him!

43 Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt."

"That's right," Jesus said.

- This wasn't a difficult question, in fact the simplicity of it, the outcome of the story...it seems that Simon is almost reluctant, "I suppose..."

44 Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn't offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

- He's looking at the woman, but still talking to Simon
- He's calling Simon to look at the one thing he wants to ignore, the woman he considers worthless.
- "LOOK AT THIS WOMAN..."
 - kneeling here
- Now we haven't talked about how Jesus was treated when he came into Simon's home. This isn't forgetfulness on Simon's part. He was accustomed to having people in his home, there are some things that must happen when a guest comes into your home.
- Washing of feet - Simon didn't even...

⁴⁵ You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet.

- A greeting of a kiss
- What would happen if you had company and you didn't even get up? You didn't say "Hello", shake a hand or greet the people coming in your home.

⁴⁶ You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume.

- Olive oil was common...Jesus said, you didn't even take what was common, but this woman has anointed my feet with rare perfume.
- You did nothing, you barely showed up.
- John Ortberg, in his book "The Secret of a Loving Heart" writes this:

"There is a great sin defiling this room. But it is not the sin Simon thinks. It is the sin of...

Lips that won't kiss
Knees that won't bend
Eyes that will not weep
Hands that will not serve
Perfume that will never leave the jar

It is the sin of a heart that will not break, a life that will not change, a soul that will not love.

- How do we approach Jesus? What do WE do when Jesus approaches?

- Colossians 2:14

¹⁴ He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross."

⁴⁷ "I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love."⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven."

⁴⁹ The men at the table said among themselves, "Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?"

- "her sins - and they are many - have been forgiven...
- She's not pulling a fast one on Jesus, HE KNOWS!
- The mistake that Simon makes is not realizing that he still carries a debt he cannot repay!
- The men around the table still don't get it!
- Who is this guy?
- Jesus addresses the woman...

⁵⁰ And Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

- It was not washing his feet with her tears, not kneeling, not the rare perfume...none of those things saved her, what saved her...was my very first question when we entered the text: What drove her to come and see Jesus, she didn't know what to expect, she just needed to fall at the feet of Jesus!

How do you Encounter Jesus?

- Many of us are quick to judge Simon...what a jerk!

- But do you align yourself with the woman. No...no...I've not done something that bad! She's messed up. I mean, good for her, coming to her senses and all, but my life just needs a little clean up. Welcome to the world of the Pharisees, you and I are doing just great.

1) The Test:

#1 - You compare yourselves to others, "I'm not as bad as that guy"

#2 - You are self-sufficient in your faith, it's all the good things you do that bring you closer to God.

#3 - You've never been broken, you've never spent those moments in your knees knowing that only Jesus loves you.

- Its not about tears, it's about your heart
- Its not about posture, it's your heart
- Its not about gifts, it's your heart!!!

#4 - You've invited Jesus in, but your life, actions and words seem to ignore his presence

2) The Turn:

- Worship - Here's a secret, Jesus is here. Here's the problem, some of you are ignoring Him. You came in here with these thoughts in mind: Hope I like the music! Hope I like the sermon! Hope I get to lunch quicker than the methodist church! Hope I get a good seat! Hope I get something out of it today! I - I - I - I - !!!!!!!!!!!

- It's not about you!! EVERYONE in this room, should take after me...on my ride in on the morning, I've got the radio off and I am praying that I will GIVE JESUS the best of me in worship!
- Pray before you come in those back doors
- Prepare your hearts
- Bring your "stuff" with you! (Woman still soaking with sin, couldn't do anything with, but still was able to worship Jesus)
- Focus on Jesus, he is the guest of HONOR!

- Prayer - Prayers are the same! Acknowledge the presence of Christ in your lives! Humble yourselves. Set aside your prayer grocery list for just a second and lay broken at the feet of Jesus.

How will you encounter Jesus?

Arms crossed, you've invite him in, but your life ignores him?

Broken, surrendered, worshipful, loving, expecting?

Close In Prayer