

THE SINFUL WOMAN

Our need to be forgiven.

Text: **Luke 7: 36-50**

This story is one of the most powerful stories of repentance, forgiveness, and hope. One that shows the quality of God's heart to anyone who will humbly come to Him.

In our text, we will find 2 kinds of people who desire to approach Jesus.

They are coming from both ends of the spectrum.

Simon, a reputable person, a Pharisee, a religious leader and a woman, who was called a ***sinner***.

The literal rendering of the word PHARISEE is "***separated one***".

For them to be considered HOLY and RIGHTEOUS, you need to be separated and be far from those who are called immorally unclean.

For religious leaders, change must happen first before acceptance.

For Jesus, acceptance must come first, and the result is change.

Simon failed to show him the usual marks of hospitality offered to visitors.

He committed the sin of omission – *it is a sin committed because of neglecting to do what is right.*

He didn't offer water for Jesus to wash His feet.

He didn't welcome Jesus with a kiss.

He didn't anoint Jesus with oil.

Simon neglected Jesus and did not give respect and courtesy to Jesus as a guest.

Simon opened and invited Jesus in his house but not in his heart, and he withheld the most basic gesture of hospitality.

The **sinful woman** was labelled in the story a "sinner". She was not even called by her name. And because she was immoral, she was labelled a sinner.

She had committed the **sin of commission** – doing something that she should not be doing.

This woman approached Jesus because of guilt and shame. She could not hold it any longer and her only hope was to come to Jesus!

The woman, sincere in her repentance from living a life of sin, went as far as weeping behind Christ, washing His feet with her tears, wiping them with her

hair, and anointing them with the very fragrant oil she herself sacrificed for this very purpose.

Her very actions showed true repentance from her sins.

The woman did not invite Jesus to her house but invited Jesus to her heart and gave the most extravagant gesture of hospitality.

In the parable of the two debtors, it is obvious that Jesus is the creditor, and at the table with Him are two debtors - the woman and Simon.

The woman thought of herself as a great sinner that needs to be forgiven.

Simon thought of Himself as a good person.

Notice in the parable that neither one could repay their debt.

In the parable, Jesus used the term “**debt**” but when He was explaining it to Simon, Jesus used the term **sin** - *Therefore, I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven.*

It's not about the degree of sin. It is not about how much we do and do not sin. It's about how much we recognise our sin.

And the more we recognise our own sin, the more we will see how much God loves and how much we have been forgiven.

What is the difference between the big debtor and the little?

The only difference is an awareness of sin. They were both big debtors, but the woman was aware of hers and Simon was not.

The Depravity of Man

The Bible qualifies our standing before God...

Romans 3:23 – *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*

Romans 3:10-12 – *Theres is no one righteous, no, not even one... All have turned away; they have all together become worthless (no value); there is no one who does good, no, not even one.*

Also read *Isa. 64:6; Rom. 5:12; Rom. 6:23*

LESSONS WE CAN LEARN

1. We were all sinners.

Sin has separated us from God.

Every one of us has an unpayable debt to God.

Sin is punishable by death.

Romans 6:23 – *For the wages of sin is death.*

2. We don't need to live and die in sin.

The life of a sinner is hard.

Read *Prov. 13:15; Prov. 4:9*

Like the woman in the story, we need to come to Jesus.

Matt. 11: 28-30 – *Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*”

3. Christ alone can forgive sins.

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

Jesus Christ came to pay the penalty for our sin. Until we come to grips with the fact that we are sinners, separated from God and under His condemnation, we cannot be saved.