

For the Love of God

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 7:29-50



Big Idea

The more aware we are of our sin, the more amazed we will be at God's grace, and the more love we will have for Christ! Do not despise the hard word from John. It leads us to the word of our salvation in Jesus!

(1) Two Different Groups Introduced (vv. 29-35)

In the opening section of our text, we see the people around Jesus now starting to divide into two groups. Each of these two groups is identified and distinguished particularly by the way they respond to the ministries of John and Jesus. The Children of Wisdom receive them. The Children of this Generation reject them.

John represents grief over our sin; Jesus represents gratitude for God's grace. John comes with fasting; Jesus comes with feasting. John helps us repent; Jesus helps us rejoice. The Children of this Generation, the religious elite, reject both. Because they reject John ("Why should I repent?"), they will also reject Jesus ("Why would I celebrate?"). They don't want to face their sin, so they will miss the Savior.

(2) Two Different Groups Illustrated (vv. 36-50)

Luke brings out from each of these two groups a single representative for us to observe and learn from. These two representatives are contrasted against one another. On the one hand, this sinful woman is (1) *desperate*, (2) *humble*, and (3) *lavish*. On the other hand, Simon the Pharisee is (1) *composed*, (2) *critical*, and (3) *calculated*.

But what accounts for the difference here? And how do we become more like this woman and less like Simon? What's the secret to her whole-hearted affection and unashamed love? Don't you want that? I want that! How do we get it?

Well, Jesus tells Simon how in the little parable He shares in vv. 41-42. The answer is plain. The greater the debt cancelled, the greater the love. Or, as Jesus sums it up down in v. 47: "Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little."

Until we see the horror of our sin and what it deserves, we will never see the wonder of His grace. And if we never see the wonder of His grace, we will never love Jesus like this woman—desperate, humble, lavish. Spurgeon puts it this way: "Too many think lightly of sin, and therefore think lightly of the Savior. He who has stood before his God, convicted and condemned, with the rope about his neck, is the man to weep for joy when he is pardoned . . ."

Reflection Questions



- How would you say your love has been for Jesus lately? Why do you think?
- Have you ever cried in church? Have you ever felt and acted like this woman here? Why or why not? Explain. Is this something a Christian should experience all the time or is it just a "mountaintop" thing?
- What if your testimony is "boring"? What if you didn't come out of radical sin (like prostitution or drugs)? Are you still able to experience this greater love for Jesus? Or is the debt He's cancelled for you somehow less?
- Are Christians still supposed to have awareness of sin? Or have we been freed from it?