

# GO IN PEACE—Parable of the Two Debtors Luke 7:36–50

## Stepping Out of Denial Into God's Grace

Introduction:

—Bill Turner

1. A famous art gallery in Paris contains the worlds most priceless works of art
  - a. Including the most famous portrait in the world — The Mona Lisa.
2. But in the Bible there is a portrait more beautiful than any in history...
  - a. A Woman who is Silent... But Her Sobbing Speak Volumes...
  - b. She has No Words... But Her Tears Say it all...
  - c. Are they Tears of Sorry? or Tears of Joy? I think we will find out...
3. Her Example of Faith Has a Lesson For Us All...

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## I. THE SETTING

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### A. THE SCENE (v.36)

1. Homes of the Wealthy Were Built Around an Open Courtyard...
  - a) Which was a Patio and often a garden and small pool of water or Fountain
  - b) In Warm Months and cool of the Evening they ate meals in this open courtyard
2. They Didn't Sit at a Table with Chairs as we do today...
  - a) The Table for food was raised just above the patio—They reclined on low couches
3. Rabbi's Were Teachers and they Led a very Public Life
  - a) So it Was Custom to Have a Rabbi for a Meal with Guests to Listen to Him
  - b) Many Wanted to Catch the Pearls of Wisdom from a Rabbi or Great Teacher
  - c) So it Was Not Uncommon for some to arrive uninvited just to Sit & Listen to a Rabbi
4. When Invited Guests Entered the House — 3 Things Were Always Done...
  - a) The host placed his hand on the guest's shoulder and gave him the kiss of peace.  
A mark of respect which was never omitted in the case of a distinguished Rabbi.
  - b) The roads were dusty and sandals were only held on by straps...  
So cool water was always poured over the guest's feet to cleanse and comfort them.
  - c) And a drop of oil or rose water was placed on the guests head...

These were just Manners of Hospitality—but none of them were extended to Jesus

### B. THE WOMAN (v.37–38)

1. She was a Woman in the city 'who was a sinner'
  - a) We Don't Know What Kind of Sinner—But she seems to have a sinful reputation
  - b) She was bold to show up uninvited to a pharisees house
  - c) But She was Determined to See Her Savior
2. She Brought an Alabaster Flask of Fragrant Oil
  - a) An Alabaster Flask was a beautiful container of expensive fragrant perfume
  - b) Some Jewish women wore them around their neck as their dowry
  - c) She wished to pour it on his feet, for it was all she had to offer.
3. And Overcome with Emotion she knelt at His feet weeping

- a) Her tears are falling on Jesus feet
- b) So Many Tears that she begins to wash his feet with her tears
- c) And wipe them with her own long flowing hair
- d) Then she Kisses His Feet and Anoints Them with Fragrant Oil

4. ***“Tears are words the heart cannot express” –words that cannot be spoken***

- a) Were They Tears of Shame?
- b) Were They Tears of Joy? for Finding Forgiveness from Her Savior?
- c) Imagine the absolute Silence and Shock... Everyone is Watching—Speechless!

### **C. THE PHARISEE (v.39)**

- 1. **The Term Pharisee means: ‘Separated ones’**
  - a) They Separated Themselves Because They Considered Themselves Holy
  - b) The Word HOLY Means: “Set Apart” for special service to the Lord
  - c) So They Did Not Want to Be Made “Unclean” by Contact with anyone not a Pharisee
- 2. **So Imagine His Shock When she kneels down & kisses Jesus feet!**
  - a) Simon is a PHD of the Law — She’s a Sinner off the Street
  - b) Simon is a Leader Looked Up To — She’s a Scandal Looked Down On
  - c) He’s Hosting the Party — She’s Crashing it!
- 3. **You can imagine the shocked silence**
  - a) Not a sound except the quiet sobbing of this woman!
  - b) Everyone Stops and Stares! What is She Doing Here and What is She Doing?
  - c) Simon Now Has All the Information He Needs...
  - d) He’s now judged Jesus as a Fake Prophet who doesn’t know who this woman is

### **D. THE SAVIOR (v.40)**

- 1. **But Jesus is Not Just a Prophet or a Visiting Rabbi...**
- 2. **This Woman Knows Who Jesus is!**
- 3. **Simon the Pharisee Does Not... –But He’s about to find out!**

## **II. THE PARABLE**

### **A. THE PARABLE... (7:40-43)**

- 1. **THE CREDITOR: is God Himself**
  - a) God Created the Universe and Everything in it...
  - b) Therefore God Owns the Universe that He Made – And He is Our Creator!
  - c) Every Good and Perfect Gift is From Above—from the Father of Lights
- 2. **THE DEBTORS: Two DEBTORS — Both Bankrupt, Both Unable to Pay**
  - a) The Nature of Sin Causes Us to All Be in Debt to God Our Creator
  - b) Sin is High Treason Against God
    - Whether our sins were small or big doesn’t matter
  - c) We Have All Sinned and We Are Spiritually Bankrupt Before God
  - d) Some are Respectable Sinners, Some Scandalous Sinners—But All Have Sinned
  - e) Not Only Sins of COMMISSION—Which We Have Committed Against God
  - f) But Also the Sins of OMISSION—The Good things We Should Do But Fail to Do

3. **THE GRACE: So He Freely Forgave Them Both...**

- a) This is a Picture of the Forgiving Grace of God
- b) We Were Bankrupt before God...
- c) But Jesus Paid our Debt in Full at the Cross

4. **THE QUESTION: Jesus Challenges Simon w/ a Question...**

***“which of them will love him more?”***

- a) Simon is a smart guy – he says... *‘I suppose the one whom he forgave more’*

**B. THE APPLICATION (v.44–46)**

1. **Then Jesus asks: ‘Do You See This Woman?’**

- a) The Correct Answer is NO...
- b) Simon does not really see the heart of the woman
- c) He sees a scandal, an embarrassment, a pile of mistakes

**SIMON**

- 1) You Gave me no water for my feet
- 2) You Gave Me No Kiss
- 3) You Did Not Anoint My Head with Oil

- 1) She Washed my feet with her Tears
- 2) She Has Kissed My Feet
- 3) She Anointed my Feet w/ Fragrant Oil

**WOMAN**

**C. THE POINT (v.47–50)**

1. **Some People Love God More Than Others** → but WHY?

a) **Because Some Are Honest With Themselves and Honest with God!**

- (1) Sin is Committing High Treason Against God
- (2) Sin Separated us from God and placed us under condemnation

b) **But Some Commit High Treason Against God and Think It's Fine!**

- (1) They Are Not Honest w/ Themselves or with God

c) **But Others Understand the Lengths God Went for Them**

- (1) That God Paid Our Debt in Full by His Blood
- (2) and Love Him all the more because of it
- (3) And Now Jesus Gave them True Peace!

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### **III. THE LESSONS**

**A. IT IS POSSIBLE TO SHOW RESPECT FOR JESUS CHRIST—**

**—BUT REJECT HIS SAVING GRACE.**

1. **Simon Showed Respect Toward Jesus But He Didn't Need a Savior**

**because He was a Pharisee—Had Fallen for the ‘Good Person’ Argument**

a) **The Good Person Argument is so Deceptive because it Blinds us to our Need**

- (1) It Makes Us Feel Good About Ourselves
- (2) It Absolves Us of Any Guilt of Sin — and any Duty to God

b) **The Good Person Argument is so Insidious because...**

- (1) It's Saying—I Don't Need God... I Don't Need Forgiveness...
- (2) I don't Need the Blood of Jesus because I'm My Own Savior

c) **The Good Person Argument is Not Being Honest W/ Ourselves or w/ God**

*“We can only know God well when we know our own sin. And those who have known God without knowing their own wretchedness have not glorified Him but have glorified themselves.” (Blaise Pascal)*

2. **Only a Humble Person is Honest Enough to Seek God's Grace!**
  - a) The Prodigal Son & his Brother both sinned but only one asks for forgiveness
  - b) The Two Men at the Temple Praying both sinned—only one asks for forgiveness
3. **God's Grace is NOT automatic—It Can be Rejected by those who:**  
**don't WANT it, don't NEED it, or just REFUSE to Accept It**
  - a) **In 1830, a man named George Wilson was arrested for mail theft, the penalty for which was hanging.**
  - b) After a period time, President Andrew Jackson actually gave Wilson a pardon... but he refused to accept it! He Refused a Presidential Pardon!
  - c) The authorities were puzzled: should Wilson be freed or hanged?
  - d) They consulted Chief Justice John Marshall, who handed down this decision:
  - e) **"A pardon is a slip of paper, the value of which is determined by the acceptance of the person to be pardoned. If it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must be hanged."** (Warren Wiersbe, Bible Exposition Commentary, Luke 7:44–50)

## **B. STEPPING OUT OF DENIAL INTO GOD'S GRACE SETS US FREE FROM OUR PAST AND GIVES US A NEW FUTURE!**

1. **No One Can Change Their Past—But Jesus Can Forgive Us Our Past!**  
**—And Give Us a New Future!**
  - GENUINE SORROW of Her Sins
  - REPENTANCE
  - FAITH in Christ
  - LOVE for her Savior
  - WORSHIP from her heart
  - THANKFULNESS for who Jesus is and what He has done
  - FORGIVENESS
  - PEACE ... Jesus said, go in peace
  - TRUE LIFE CHANGE

<sup>9</sup> And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

2. **You Can Search All the World's Religions, the Philosophies & Ideologies But You Cannot Find Grace in Any of them!**
  - a) it is only in Christ, because only He could Pay Our Debt in Full at the Cross
  - b) Little Did This Woman Know that Jesus Was Going to Be Nailed to a Cross for Her Sins... and for Ours!
3. **We Owe a Debt We Could Never Have Repaid... and Are Offered a Gift of Grace We Could Never have Deserved and Are Promised an Inheritance We Could Never Have Earned!**

## **C. 3. ONLY GOD'S GRACE CAN GIVE TRUE PEACE.....**

1. **(Luke 7:48–50) 'Go in Peace'**
2. **Peace with God is the only True Peace we can have (Romans 5:1)**
3. **Peace w/ Ourselves, Peace w/ Others**  
**peace that surpasses all understanding**

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. **Imagine having your past sins washed away**
2. **Imagine Being Made Clean and Holy in the Sight of God**
3. **Imagine standing with millions dressed in robes of white**
4. **Imagine the River and City of God (Revelation 7:9)**