

Sitting At the Feet of Jesus

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Good morning, we welcome you to the services here at the Lorain Avenue Church of Christ.

We have lately been teaching about the subject that I'm going to talk about this morning.

And that is, as well as the title of this lesson, "Sitting at The Feet of Jesus."

Now, in the secular world, there are many ways and forms to educate oneself.

And I'm going to submit to you that it's very much the same in our spiritual lives.

We have many examples in the Bible that talk about people sitting at the feet of another.

For instance, when we look at the Apostle Paul in Acts chapter 22 and verse three, he sat at the feet of Gamaliel.

"I am a Jew born in Tarsus but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God, even as all are this day."

We could stop right there, but I'd like to mention two other people that sat at the feet of another and were educated spiritually.

The next one I'm thinking about is the young man, Timothy. He received his spiritual education at the feet of his mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois.

Second Timothy chapter one and verses five through seven.

We read about Timothy having been reminded of "the unfeigned faith that was in him and which first dwelt in his grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice."

"And I am persuaded," Paul continues, "that it is in thee also, for which cause I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but of power and love and discipline."

Finally, the last person that I'd like to mention is found in Luke chapter 10 and verses 38 through 42.

And her name is Mary. And she had a sister named Martha.

When we turn to Luke 10, we find out what Mary did that was very exceptional to the Lord, and it pleased him.

“Now, as they went on their way, He entered into a certain village and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary who also sat at the Lord's feet and heard his word.

“But Martha was caring much about serving and she came up to Him and said, Lord, do not you care that my sister did leave me to serve alone? Bid her, therefore, she may help me.

“But the Lord answered and said unto her, ‘Martha, Martha, thou art anxious and troubled about many things.

““But one thing is needful and Mary hath chosen the good part which shall not be taken away from her.””

Now, we've read about three individuals who sat at the feet of others and received their spiritual education.

We can receive our spiritual education today by sitting at the feet of Jesus. too can sit at the feet of Jesus today, thus the title of our lesson sitting at the feet of Jesus.

But how can we do this? First, we're going to explore the question of why it is important to sit at the feet of Jesus.

Then we're going to ask the question, what does it take to sit at the feet of Jesus today? And how may we sit at the feet of Jesus? Today we turn our attention to why it is important to sit at the feet of Jesus.

In our study of this matter, we first would like to see why it is important as set at the feet of Jesus.

Probably the most furthest reaching point comes from the fact that Jesus is the Master Teacher. And all those who choose to sit at Jesus' feet can understand and be educated.

Mark chapter six and verses one and two state, “And He went out from there and He came into His own country and His disciples followed Him. And when the Sabbath was come, He began to teach in the synagogue.

“And many hearing Him were astonished saying, where did this man get these things? and what is the wisdom that is given unto this man? And by what means such mighty works are wrought by His hands?”

There's another reason why it is important to sit at the feet of Jesus.

And that is because Jesus is the only one that is qualified and has the authority to teach us in the spiritual realm.

Matthew chapter seven and verses 28 and 29, bear this out for us.

“And it came to pass when Jesus had finished these words, the multitudes were astonished at His teaching; for He taught them as one having authority and not like their scribes.”

Now, not only did Jesus have the qualifications and the authority to teach in the spiritual realm, Jesus did not teach pseudo truth. Instead, He preached the word of God in truth.

John chapter three and verse 34, “For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure.”

So, we see that Jesus teaches us in Spiritual Truth.

Another reason why it is important to sit at the feet of Jesus is that He's the only one sent by God to teach us spiritually.

Acts chapter 10 and verses 42 and 43.

“And He charged us to preach unto the people and to testify that this is He who is ordained of God to be the judge of the living and the dead.”

There's one last important reason why we need to sit at the feet of Jesus. He is the one that's going to be grading our report cards.

You remember when you were in school, the all-important grading of how well you are doing?

It wasn't so well for me when I was small because. I disliked report cards because in the report card there were a few lacking marks for me.

And sometimes it caused some discipline to come my way that I didn't like.

So, we see that Jesus will be grading our report cards and giving us passing or failing grades in the judgment day.

Again, Acts chapter 10 and verse 42.

“And he charged us to preach unto the people and testify that this is He who is ordained of God to be the judge of the living and the dead.”

So now we've examined why it is important to sit the feet of Jesus.

Now, let's embark upon answering the question, “what does it take to sit at the feet of Jesus?”

Just as it takes an interest in a secular subject that we're studying, genuine interest needs to be present in our spiritual life.

When we have a genuine interest in these two things, we can sit at the feet of Jesus.

The first thing is that we must have an interest in is the teacher, or we will not perform according to what the teacher has taught us.

John chapter 14 and verse 15 says, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

Now, we not only need interest in the teacher, but we need to have interest in the subject that the teacher is teaching.

How many times have you gone to a class you didn't like? What were your results? In order to pass that course, you probably had to have a really good teacher that you liked. One that was animated, bringing the subject to life. That can make the difference.

When we have a genuine interest in the teacher and in the subject, we can sit at the feet of Jesus.

Acts chapter two and verse 42 says,” And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles teaching and fellowship and the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

If we take to heart what the teacher is saying, we're hopefully going to put those things into practice.

James chapter 1 and verses 22 to 25.

“But be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a mirror. For he beholds himself and goes away and straight-away forgets what manner of man he was. But he that looks unto the perfect law, the law of liberty, and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his doing.”

Now we can see how important it is to have the attitude of liking both teacher and subject. But the interest in the teacher and teachings needs to be stirred up, and then put into practice.

Let's talk about attitude.

Along with interest, comes a very important thing. And that is attitude. Attitude about anything determines whether or not we will follow what has been taught to us.

A good example of this is found in Second Kings chapter five and verses 10 through 14.

“And Elijah sent a messenger unto him, ‘Go and wash in the Jordan seven times and your flesh shall be restored to you and you shall be clean.’”

This is the story of Naman.

“But Naman was wroth and went away and said, ‘Behold, I thought, surely He will come out to me and stand and call on the name of Jehovah his God, and wave his hand over the place and recover the leper. But are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them and be clean?’”

“So, he turned and went away in a rage and his servants came near and spake unto him and said, ‘My father, if the prophet had bid thee do something great, wouldst thou not have done it? How much rather then, when he saith it unto thee, Wash and be cleaned?’”

“Then when he down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God, and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child and he was clean.”

Interest and attitude combined with the right motive of heart and sincerity can help us to sit at the feet of Jesus.

Several faithful people we know in the Bible have done this.

And just as these people combined interest and attitude toward that of the Master Teacher, which is Jesus Christ, we can do the same.

Now that we've seen why it is important to sit at the feet of Jesus and what it takes to sit at the feet of Jesus, we'd like to embark upon our last question.

And that is, “How can we sit at the feet of Jesus today? There are two main ideas or ways that come to my mind.

The first one is to simply read the textbook that the master teacher has given us.

Second Timothy chapter three verses 15 through 16.

“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

Now, a second thing that will help us, or give us the “how,” to sit at the feet of Jesus, is realizing that Jesus is paying attention to our attendance. And He is going to be the one that says, “You were excused,” or “You were un-excused.”

And so, we will have to give an account of that to our Lord and Savior on the judgment day.

First Corinthians chapter 20 and verse 26, “How is it then, brethren? When ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.”

We've explored the subject of sitting at the feet of Jesus today.

We have understood and taught that there's a “why” to sitting at the feet of Jesus.

We also have studied what it takes to sit at the feet of Jesus.

And finally, we examined how we might sit at the feet of Jesus.

Therefore, Jesus has an open invitation to you.

If you've taken the time to read the scriptures, you can understand Jesus' insight into this and how that we must, in obedience, submit ourselves to the things that bring salvation. Aren't we saying that repentance and baptism are necessary for our salvation? Are we willing to listen, and not only listen, but do what the Master Teacher has said? This is your choice this morning.

We also know that people often lose their way when trying to sit at the feet of Jesus and they forget, or fail, to study the textbook that Jesus has given us.

In addition to that, we need to understand that Jesus is going to hold us accountable for our un-excused absences.

He's going to teach us and watch how we apply His teachings.

If you've stopped studying your Bible, you're in a bad position because there's always something new to learn in the scriptures.

So, if we could help you this morning, please make your needs and wants and wishes known.

You can be baptized for the remission of sins and live a different way of life educating yourself every day within the scriptures.

So, if we can help you, please come forward and when we sing the invitation song. You can make your wants and wishes known to us.

Let us sing the invitation song.