

Being Grateful When In Want

Luke 7:36-50

New Sunday Evening Series: Mixed Blessings

- Being Grateful when in Want
- Being Joyful when in Sorrow
- Being Gentle in the Face of Cruelty
- Being Compassionate when in Pain
- Being Humble among Fools

Being Grateful When In Want

- Grateful, thankful people are a joy to others
 - It is difficult to love the selfish, thoughtless, and ungrateful, who act as if they are entitled to the blessings given them
- In spiritual matters, there is an expectation on God's part that His people will show gratitude for what He has done for them
 - It is hard to be grateful when we receive only a part of the help we believe we need

Luke 7:36-50

- “Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. 37 And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, 38 and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. 39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, This man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.”

Luke 7:36-50

- “And Jesus answered and said to him, Simon, I have something to say to you. So he said, Teacher, say it. 41 There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more? 43 Simon answered and said, I suppose the one whom he forgave more. And He said to him, You have rightly judged. 44 Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head.”

Luke 7:36-50

- “You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. 46 You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. 47 Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little. 48 Then He said to her, Your sins are forgiven. 49 And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, Who is this who even forgives sins? 50 Then He said to the woman, Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”

The True Measure of Gratitude

- Gratitude is not measured in proportion to the amount of blessings received
- Gratitude is measured in proportion to:
 - how deeply we desire the blessing
 - and how fully we recognize our own inability to supply it to ourselves

Simon the Pharisee

- A religious man, devoted to the traditions of the Jews and to ritual purity
- He was a Pharisee
 - Matt. 9:13 - “But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”
 - Matt. 23:23 - “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.”

Simon the Pharisee

- Simon thought quite highly of himself, especially when measured against the sinner woman, and even against Jesus
 - Luke 18:10-11 - “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.’”
- He believed himself to be a righteous man by means of his own deeds, and therefore had no need for forgiveness

The Sinner Woman

- She came to Jesus.
 - If we want forgiveness, we must come to God, not the other way around
 - James 4:8 - “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”

The Sinner Woman

- She was penitent.
 - Humility is essential for those who want forgiveness
 - Matt. 18:3-4 - “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”
 - James 4:10 - “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

The Sinner Woman

- The two elements of true gratitude were met by the sinner woman and were not met by Simon the Pharisee:
 - being fully aware of her need
 - and knowing that she could not fill it

Are We Grateful When In Want?

- We are grateful, delivered sinners who have been made into saints.
 - This does not mean that we are wonderful or better than unbelievers.
 - We simply recognized our spiritual poverty and our inability to supply our own spiritual needs and have humbly appealed to God for forgiveness of sins

Are We Grateful When In Want?

- The fact that we have been saved, delivered in ways in which we could never deliver ourselves, should lead us to act with fervent zeal and desire for the Lord...
to be grateful!

Are We Grateful When In Want?

- God expects that, on the basis of our salvation, we should gratefully show our appreciation for salvation by acting to preserve it
 - Heb. 2:1-3 - “Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him”

Are We Grateful When In Want?

- God gave us His best, and He expects us to give our best back to Him
 - Gal. 2:20 - “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Are We Grateful When In Want?

- We will never be able to repay the debt, but that is not what God expects of us.
 - Instead, we are to live as a people who remember that we have been released from debt and who act accordingly with honor.

Are We Grateful When In Want?

- Since we have been forgiven, we forgive others
 - Matt. 18:21-35
- As we have been loved, we love others
 - 1John 4:9-11
- As we have received mercy, we show mercy
 - Luke 6:36
- As Christ humbled Himself to be exalted by God, so we must humble ourselves before God
 - Phil. 2:5-11

Lessons

- Ungrateful people do not know how good they have it, and therefore do not appreciate what has been done for them
- Where is our focus:
 - on what we have been given that we needed,
 - or on what we have not been given that we wanted?

Lesson One

- We have not been given perfect health of body; but did we appreciate it when we had it?
 - We have been given spiritual health in Jesus.
 - Is it enough to move us to say, “Thank you for the health, Lord,” when we are sick in body and well in spirit?
 - 2Cor. 4:16-18

2Cor. 4:16-18

- 2Cor. 4:16-18 - “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

Lesson Two

- We have not been given an easy abundant financial life; but did we appreciate abundance on the few occasions when we had it?
 - We have been given riches in Christ and treasures in heaven.
 - Is it enough to make us say, “Thank you for the gifts, Lord,” when we are rich in blessings but poor in pocket?
 - Phil. 4:10-13

Phil. 4:10-13

- Phil. 4:10-13 - “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. 11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Lesson Three

- We have not been given a guarantee of extended life for ourselves and loved ones in this world. But did we appreciate life when we and our loved ones were young and had our whole lives before us?
 - We have been given eternal life when this life has ended for ourselves and all of our families and friends who come to the Lord.
 - Is that enough to help us gratefully say, “Thank you for the life, Lord,” when we are aging on the outside but alive in Christ in the inward man?
 - 2Tim. 4:6-8

2Tim. 4:6-8

- 2Tim. 4:6-8 - “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”