

Brokenness and the Two Debtors

Luke 7:40-50

This series entitles “Strange Secrets” presents to us some stories, miracles, and parables that have wisdom that runs counter to what most people would think. Today I am going to describe for you a beautiful life. Ladies, when you were young, you thought that kind of life would be a handsome husband, beautiful children, and a house with a white picket fence. Our text reveals beauty as a sinner broken, forgiven, and in deep love with Christ.

The Pharisees encounter a problem (vs. 36-39) - a known “sinner” crashes a traditional Pharisee dinner. Jesus is in the home of a Pharisee named Simon. It was the custom in Jesus’ day to invite rabbis or teachers to your home for debate and fellowship. To ‘recline’ at supper was the standard posture of dinner guests --- reclining on one elbow with feet pointed toward the outer walls and eating with the other hand. A woman enters the home and stands at the feet of Jesus. She begins to cry. She notices her tears are falling on the feet of Jesus and bends down to wipe the tears with her hair. While close to Christ’s feet, she takes her alabaster (or ‘alibastron’) and breaks it at Jesus’ feet. The perfume filled the entire house. Then Simon said to *himself* - “If this man were a prophet He would know what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him. She is a sinner.”

Jesus responds with a parable (vs. 40-47) of two debtors is told. Jesus answers Simon’s thoughts and tells the parable of the two debtors (it could be called *The parable of the Gracious Creditor*). One man owed 50 ‘pence’ (‘pence’ means a day’s wages), and the other 500 pence. The creditor forgives them. Jesus said, “Tell me, which of them will love him the most? *“I suppose that he, to whom he forgave the most.”* Jesus said, *“You are correct.”* Jesus then tells Simon this woman’s many sins **“Have been forgiven”** (v. 48).

The forgiven woman gives us a principle ... (vs. 48-50). She didn’t care what she looked like to the people around her. Her focus in that house was upon Christ alone. She gives Christ the most expensive possession she owned - her perfume in the alibastron jar. Perfume fills the air. There’s nothing sweeter in life than a broken, forgiven sinner.

(1). We must not forget what we owe . . . The person who has a short memory of his sinfulness, or a shallow understanding of Christ’s work on the cross, will never have a true picture of who he is, who God is, and the great forgiveness that is found in Christ. Legalism attempts to pay off our debt to God because we don’t consider it that great.

(2). We must not fool those we know . . . Some of us have no problem acknowledging sin to God, but we struggle with others. Brokenness equals transparency.

(3). We must rest in Christ in order to grow. . . by not bartering or making deals with God. We must trust His grace and rest in His forgiveness. There is power in life if we do.

A perpetual state of brokenness occurs when we see ourselves for who we are, make no attempt to hide it, and catch of glimpse of who we can become by His grace, and love Him for it.