

How to Love the Lord With All Your Heart

The First and Great Commandment
Matthew 22:36–38

Luke 7:36–50

- This passage relates a very touching, a very emotional event in the life of Jesus.
- And in the midst of it, Jesus relates a very short parable, often called “The Parable of the Two Debtors” (vv. 41–42).
- The incident recorded in this chapter tells us about a woman who loved Jesus “much” (v. 47).
- Our task is two fold: 1) to figure out why she did, and; 2) how we can do the same.

Questions

- Any reason to think this woman was invited?
 - Remember for what Jesus had already been criticized. Luke 5:30; 7:34.
 - Notice what Simon said to himself in v. 39.
 - Not uncommon in this culture to have uninvited guests for these feasts or suppers.
 - Question for consideration: How much would we have wanted to do with this woman?

Questions

- This woman is described as a sinner. Was she the only sinner in the house?
 - How about Simon? Did he need forgiveness?
 - What about “those who sat at the table with Him”? (v. 49)?
 - The only person there NOT a sinner was _____.
 - Who was the only sinner in attendance who recognized their need for Jesus?

Questions

- Why was this sinful woman crying?
 - She was crying about her sin; she was crying because she felt a profound sense of guilt.
 - What she **planned** to do was anoint His feet with oil; what she **didn't plan** was to be overcome with emotion.
 - She came with the very kind of heart the Lord loves—“a broken and contrite heart” (Psalms 51:17).
 - “I will be in anguish over my sin” (Psalms 38:18).

Questions

- We can easily see what the woman did FOR Jesus, but what was she seeking FROM Jesus?
 - The very thing Jesus told her in v. 48: “Your sins are forgiven.”
 - How did she know Jesus could do that?
 - “Your faith has saved you” (v. 50).
 - If faith comes by hearing (Rom. 10:17), then she must have either heard directly from Jesus, or from others about Jesus.
 - Luke 5:18–24.

Questions

- Why was she so courteous, and Simon was not?
 - Because she saw herself as the debtor who owed 500 denarii (v. 41); because she knew she had **nothing** with which to repay her enormous debt (v. 42); and because she was so thankful that Jesus would forgive her debt.
 - It's quite clear she treated forgiveness as a “done deal,” because she couldn't do enough for Jesus.
 - Verses 44–47.

Questions

- 500 denarii, 50 denarii—one who has sinned a lot, vs. one who has sinned a little; or, one who feels a deep sense of guilt and indebtedness vs. one who does not? One who sees their desperate need for Jesus vs. one who does not?
- Do we really think Jesus would be saying, “Those of you who love Me just a little, that’s okay because you didn’t have much to forgive”?
- The quantity of your sins may not be as great as another, but it’s enough to condemn you to hell.

Questions

- See anything in all this that relates to our salvation, and our love for the Lord?
 - Like this woman, we were in great anguish over our sin, and for good reason.
 - We knew we had a great debt to repay, but nothing with which to repay it.
 - But Jesus with his precious blood “paid it all.” When we came to Him with a believing, broken, and contrite heart, and were baptized into His death, He said in effect, “Your sins are forgiven.”

Questions

- So why do we love Jesus so much?
 - Because He wiped away all our shame and guilt, and because He lifted from us the divine sentence of eternal condemnation.
 - And so NOW, we simply cannot do enough for Him. We gladly serve Him, sacrifice for Him, and tell as many others about Him as we possibly can.
 - And when we do sin, we know that He who once pardoned all our past sins will do so again.