

Lesson 153 The Two Debtors

I. Scripture Text

Luke 7:36-50 And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, 38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.

45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

II. Bible Story

CF5-1 Jesus dines with Simon the Pharisee

A Pharisee named Simon had a banquet for his fellow Pharisees and invited Jesus to the banquet. Like the other Pharisees, Simon did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of

God.

While those invited to the banquet were at tables, several uninvited guests stood around the sides of the banquet hall. The uninvited guests were permitted to look on but not to partake of the banquet. Among them was a street woman who was well known for her sinful life.

Simon greeted all his guests with a welcoming kiss on the cheek; he summoned a servant to wash their feet, as was the custom in that day. Washing the feet of guests was considered not only a courtesy but a necessity, since sandals did little to keep out the dust from the roads of that day. Another token of courtesy that Simon extended to his guests to make them feel very special was to anoint their heads with oil. He did not have a servant wash Jesus' feet, nor did he anoint Jesus' head with oil. The onlookers at the banquet saw that Simon was not very polite to Jesus.

CF5-2 A sinful woman and a parable of two debtors

A woman who was a sinner came and stood behind Jesus—at His feet—and began to weep. When her tears fell on Jesus' feet, she quickly knelt and wiped them away with her long hair. The woman then kissed Jesus' feet and took an expensive bottle of ointment and anointed His feet. Jesus had forgiven this sinful woman of her sins, and she was so overcome with appreciation and gratitude that she expressed her appreciation and love to Jesus in this way. Though Simon treated Jesus rudely by not extending the common courtesies of his day, this woman washed His feet with her tears, kissed His feet, and anointed them with expensive perfume. All the things that Simon should have at least had a servant do, the woman did herself even to the point of totally abasing herself. Simon was shocked that Jesus allowed this sinful woman to touch Him, for Simon said to himself, "This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a

sinner."

Of course, Jesus knew all about the woman and her sin, but He also knew all about Simon and his sin, even to what Simon was thinking, just as God knows what we think. Jesus said, "Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee." Simon answered, "Master, say on."

Jesus told Simon this story, "There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?" Simon answered and said, "I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most." Jesus then said, "Thou hast rightly judged."

Next, Jesus turned to the woman but spoke to Simon, "Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment." Simon was probably very embarrassed by this at this point if not because of his hypocrisy, at least by the fact that it was pointed out how bad a host he had been. Jesus continued on, "Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little."

Jesus then spoke to the woman herself with a most wonderful announcement. He said to her, "Thy sins are forgiven." The people who were all seated about the room were filled with wonder. They didn't understand why Jesus was talking about her sins being forgiven. Had she done something so good that it made up for her sin? They began to say within themselves, "Who is this that forgiveth sins also?" They didn't understand that a person is saved by their faith and that doing good things is something we do because we are saved, not to get saved. Jesus explained this to the woman with the people able to hear, "Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace."

Simon had not realized that his sins of

pride, hypocrisy, and selfishness were just as wrong and repulsive to God as the woman's sins. Simon and the other Pharisees did not realize that though they looked so religious and good on the outside, their sins were just as bad as the woman's and that they were very sinful in God's sight. Simon and the other Pharisees were shocked that Jesus said He forgave this woman her sins, for only God could forgive sins! And they certainly did not believe Jesus was God! The Pharisees' greatest sin was their unbelief, for they did not believe Jesus was sent by God to be their Savior. The woman was saved by faith, which is the only way anyone is saved. No matter how good a person may seem to be, if he does not believe in Jesus and receive Him by faith, he cannot be saved.

III. Activity 1

Age 3 through Grade 4

Materials needed:

- ☐ a copy of page 153a for each student
- ☐ crayons, glitter, glue, or other miscellaneous decorating materials
- ☐ a piece of yarn 30" long for each student
- ☐ tape
- ☐ scissors

Cut the word boxes out from page 153a by cutting on the dotted lines (let older students cut these out themselves). Have them decorate the word boxes with the decorating materials you have. Next, have them fold the word boxes on the solid line. Place the yarn in the fold and then tape the folded edge down. Tie a loop onto each end of the yarn so the students can hang their banner up when they get home.

Discuss the importance of not getting even when someone has wronged us and how we should be ready to forgive someone and accept a loss if we need to.

IV. Activity 2

Grade 5 through Grade 7

Have the students continue working on their banners from lesson 131.