

The Heart for Revival

Luke 7: 36-50

A lot is said in the Church today about commitment – that we need more commitment. Can I say that Simon was a truly committed religious man! Yet, Jesus scolds him for his misunderstanding of God through the example of a restored sinner! A better term – a more appropriate term would be surrender. Surrender means that I give up and come to the end of me and fall into the hands of the One who wins the war for my soul. Surrender means that I sacrifice my reputation, my values, decisions, expenditures, activities, desires and even my will to God! When God looks at you this morning does He say, “There is a fully surrender follower of my will in his/her life?”

Three people in this passage:

I. Simon – A Pharisee

Who was Simon?

1. Monotheistic
2. Believed in the authority of Scripture
3. Desired to Worship God
4. Kept the Sabbath, tithed, kept the purification rituals, desired to be holy
5. Believed in the afterlife – heaven, hell, reward and punishment
6. Believed in human equality
7. Believed in angels – good and bad
8. Were to an extent missionary minded toward the gentiles
9. Believed in the individual’s responsibility to life right before God

Why did he reject Jesus?

1. Jesus didn’t play by man’s rules
2. Jesus was not who the religious elite expected
3. He saw no need for Jesus – If he just kept the law he was good!

Committed? Yes! But he was committed to the wrong master!

II. The Woman – A Sinner!

This woman is the **picture of brokenness!** Her posture was an indicator of her heart!

- a. Stood behind Jesus – preeminence of Christ
- b. Weeping – overwhelmed with the forgiveness and joy of freedom
- c. Progression- from standing to stooping. She continues to bend lower and lower as she washes Jesus feet – then dries them with her hair – to finally kissing His feet!

Surrendered? Yes! She did not care what others thought, she did not care that she spent a fortune on Jesus (she used what she had to bless Him). She only cared about showing Jesus her profound love and gratitude for His care for her!

III. Jesus – The Redeemer!

He knew them both – As He Knows Us today!

- a. Both were sinners!
- b. Both needed His forgiveness and help!
- c. Both wanted salvation! (One wanted a commitment to a process and missed it – the other surrendered to a person and found joy!)

The only difference between many of us and most prostitutes, drug addicts and murders is that they know who they are and the vileness of their sin and rebellion. They become desperate for God's love and forgiveness, and mercy, and in seeking God's mercy they fall in love with God! We in the church who have not experienced brokenness and soul sorrow for our sin and are forgiven little and therefore we love little!

IV. It's not about your sin but about your heart toward God!

It's not about how big or small our sin is (sin is sin to God!) but the response of our heart to the conviction of God's HOLY Spirit over our sin that determines the outcome!

Both the Pharisee and the sinful woman were in need. Only one was satisfied and received the joy of forgiveness. Why? It is a broken and contrite heart surrendered to God and Him alone that God will revive!

Discussion:

1. Which person do you most identify in this passage? Why?
2. What part of Simon's religion kept him from embracing Jesus?
3. Why is brokenness such an important part of our relationship with Jesus?
4. What is the difference between commitment and brokenness? Why is understanding these two concepts important?
5. How do you respond when confronted/convicted with your sin?