**THE PARABLE OF THE CREDITOR – LUKE 7:36-50**

**THE PARABLES OF JESUS #4**

Today’s parable will reveal truth about salvation and the heart condition necessary to procure salvation. In our day, people are encouraged to “say a prayer” in order to be saved. While it is true that salvation is calling upon the Lord, there is more to salvation that a simple repeatable prayer; there must be an understanding of salvation, a humility regarding salvation and a coming to God on His terms for salvation. Jesus will cover all of this in today’s parable. We begin with:

1. **An invitation without specification – Luke 7:36 -.** The parable begins with an invitation from a Pharisee named Simon. This Pharisee invites Jesus to his house for dinner but we do not know specifically why. We do know that it wasn’t for the purpose of redemption. He obviously was intrigued by Jesus but that was it. There are people in our day who are

Intrigued by Jesus but not enough for salvation.

1. **An unexpected visitor – vs. 37-38 -.** During this visit, a woman known as a “sinner” arrives at the house. We know that all people are sinners but this designation is one of repute. This woman was quite likely a prostitute and well-known by everyone. In verse 38, she simply falls at the feet of Jesus and with her tears begins to wipe Jesus’ feet. She also proceeds to kiss His feet and anoint them with a costly fragrant ointment. These actions show humility, gratitude and worship. Jesus will compare these actions to the lack of actions on Simon’s part right after the parable.
2. **Simon’s thoughts provoke the parable – vs. 39-40 -.** These verses again prove the deity of Christ – Jesus knew his thoughts. Here we find that Simon doubted the ability of Jesus to rightly judge someone. Simon thought that Jesus should have known that this woman was a “sinner” and as a result chose not to associate with her. In verse 40, Jesus uses the thoughts of Simon to teach him about salvation and his own faulty attitude toward the subject.
3. **The Parable of the Creditor – vs. 41-43 -.** In this parable, Jesus speaks of 2 debts, one worth about $70 and the other $7. One is 10 times higher than the other. When neither debtor had the means to pay, the creditor freely forgave both debts. Jesus then asks Simon which of the debtors would love or have the most gratitude toward the creditor. Simon suggests that it is the one who was forgiven the most. The 2 debtors represent Simon and the woman. While we find that the forgiveness of the debts here are without conditions, true salvation is founded upon meeting God’s conditions – repentance and belief. Jesus will point out the 2 heart conditions of Simon and the woman. He will show that the woman felt the most gratitude because she felt the most sorrow over her sin. Salvation is only real when people feel sorrow over their sin, reach out to the Saviour for forgiveness and then show heartfelt gratitude in the face of God’s forgiveness. Most people don’t get saved today because they are lacking the necessary heart condition that leads to salvation.
4. **Jesus makes the comparison – vs. 44-50.** Jesus closes this conversation by comparing the religious Pharisee with woman who all considered to be a great sinner. Jesus will show that it was the woman and not the Pharisee who had the right heart condition for salvation. Jesus will also make a claim for His deity by proclaiming the sins of the woman forgiven; only God can make such a claim – vs. 44-50 -.