



THE WORD *Alive*

The Preaching Ministry of
Ashley River Baptist Church

THANKS FOR NOTHING

Luke 7:36-50

The most thankful people are those who understand and appreciate not how much they have been given, but how much has been taken away. Those who most know forgiveness most know gratitude.

LK 7:36 Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. 37 When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, 38 and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. 39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is-- that she is a sinner."

40 Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," he said.

41 "Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

43 Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

44 Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.

47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven-- for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." 48 Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." 49 The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" 50 Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

I. INGRATITUDE: FAILING TO RECOGNIZE OUR DIRE NEED

Ingratitude is reflected in the attitude: In Simon we see...

INADEQUATE APPRECIATION:

INDIFFERENT RECEPTION:

INACCURATE EVALUATION:

Jesus loved Simon and longed for a change in his life even though Simon's appreciation, reception and evaluation of Christ were all wrong. Ingratitude is based in our failure to recognize our deep, dire need.

II. GRATITUDE: RECOGNIZING OUR DEEP NEED

The sinful woman stands in stark contrast to the righteous upstanding Pharisee and models the presence of deeply felt gratitude and need for the grace of God.

In her we see...

SPONTANEOUS EXPRESSION:

AUTHENTIC EXPRESSION:

HUMBLE EXPRESSION:

SACRIFICIAL EXPRESSION:

Her gratitude was born out of a recognition of her dire need in life for Jesus' grace. Gratitude marks those who discover needs met in Christ.

APPLICATION

True gratitude towards Christ must rest upon two foundations to be genuine:

- 1) It must be preceded by a deep consciousness of our own sinfulness and unfitness for acceptance before the Holy God and
- 2) We must have assurance that for Jesus' sake our sins, however great they may be, are forgiven upon our repentance and confession of Jesus as Lord.

The parable of the two debtors teaches that those who most express grateful love and thanksgiving are those who most know forgiveness. Jesus did not forgive the sinful woman because she first loved Him. She loved Jesus because she understood her sins were forgiven.

Her tremendous expression of gratitude could only be shown by one who truly came to a realization of the deathly and ugly magnitude of sin and the magnitude of the saving unmerited and wondrous grace which delivers one from them.

Who will be most grateful this Thanksgiving?

Not the one to whom much has been given - but the one to whom much has been FORGIVEN.

Not so much for what He has given but what He has taken away.

The person who most deeply feels the experience of Christ's forgiveness will be the most grateful. Jesus took away her sins for which she was grateful!

Nothing she could ever have could replace what she now did not have!

This Thanksgiving give thanks to Jesus Christ who forgives us of all our sins.

Great grace gives great gratitude.

What is your estimate of your need for forgiveness today!

Do you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

v. 49 The other guests began to say among themselves,

"Who is this who even forgives sins?"

Find your grounds for gratitude today in His forgiveness.