

Bible Study

Date: 4 December 2009

Passage: Luke 7: 18 - 50

Headings:

1. John Seeks Confirmation 18 - 23.
2. Jesus' Commendation of John 24 - 35.
3. An act of Worship - the Forgiveness of Sins 36 - 50.

Exposition:

1. John Seeks Confirmation 18 - 23.

V18. John the Baptist had been imprisoned by Herod and while there his disciples came and told him all the things that they had seen and heard that Jesus was doing.

V19. On hearing this report John called two of his disciples and asked them to go to Jesus to enquire if He was indeed the one that he had prophesied would come, the Messiah or were they to look for someone else.

V20. When they came to Jesus they put before the question John had asked them to "Are you the Expected one or must we look for another?"

V21. At the time that they arrived Jesus had cured many of their sickness and diseases, had healed the blind, the lame, and deaf, healed lepers and raised the dead and preached the gospel to the poor.

V22 - 23. Turning to John's disciples he told them to go back to John and tell him all these things that they had heard and seen. To John's disciples He says "blessed are those who takes no offence in Me" (Amp.N.T.). Note that these words were spoken to John's disciples and not given as a message to take to John.

2. Jesus' Commendation of John 24 - 35.

V24 - 25. When John's messengers had left Jesus began to question the crowds around Him. What did they go out into the desert to see; an unstable man, inconsistent and wavering like a reed blown by the wind? A man dressed in a fine suit of clothes? Those who are lavishly dressed and live in luxury will be found in royal palaces. John lived ate and drank and dressed entirely the opposite (Matthew 3:4).

V26. No, they did not go into the desert to see kings and princes but to hear and see a prophet. Jesus says that John was much more than a prophet.

V27. John the Baptist was the one that the prophets said would come as the messenger to prepare the way for the Christ, the Messiah (Malachi 3:1).

V28. Jesus' commendation of John is that of all the people ever born no one is greater prophet than John the Baptist. Having said that He goes on to say that those that are considered to be least in the Kingdom of God is greater than John (Luke 9:48).

V29. When all the people heard this including the tax collectors they acknowledge that God was justified in all that He does, that God's was right.

V30. The Pharisees and the experts in religious law rejected God's plan for them and had refused to be baptised by John.

V31. Jesus asked them to what could he compare the people of this generation or how could He describe them.

V32. He said that they are like little children playing at games in the marketplace. They complain about their friends not wanting to play at any kind of game. They played a dance on the flute and they didn't want to dance. They played a funeral song and they didn't weep.

V33 - 34. He liken the people to this in their response to John the Baptist and Himself.

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John neither ate bread or drank wine and they said he had a demon. Jesus came eating and drinking and they called Him a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.

V35. But Wisdom is shown to be right and divine in the lives of those who follow it.

3. An Act of Worship - the Forgiveness of Sins. 36 - 50.

V36. One of the Pharisees present in the crowd asked Jesus to have dinner with him so He went to the his house and sat down to eat with him.

V37. During the meal a prostitute in the city who knew that Jesus was dining there came in with an alabaster jar of fragrant oil.

V38. Jesus was reclining at the table on a low couch with His feet out behind Him. The woman came behind Him weeping and with the tears that fell on His feet began to wiped them with her hair and kiss His feet then anointed them with oil. In her actions this woman showed that she was of a broken and contrite spirit, had a repentant heart and recognised in her sin who Jesus was and worshipped Him.

V39. When the Pharisee who invited Him saw this he said sarcastically to himself that if Jesus was indeed a prophet who would know what kind of woman was touching Him.

V40. Jesus knowing the thoughts of Simon turned to him and said "I have something to say to you". Simon reply "teacher, you are free to speak".

V41. A moneylender had two people who owed him money, the one five hundred denarri and the other fifty.

V42. Neither of them had the means to repay what they owed so he kindly cancelled the debt of them both. Jesus asked Simon which of the two did he think loved him the most.

V43. Simon replied that he supposed that it would be the one who had the biggest debt. Jesus said yes you have said right.

V44 - 45. Turning His eyes upon the woman He told Simon to take notice of this woman and what she had done. When Jesus entered Simon's house no water was given Him to wash His feet and no kiss of greeting which was the custom. But this woman who Simon condemned washed His feet with her tears and dried them with her hair and she hasn't stopped kissing His feet since He came in.

V46. Neither did Simon anoint His feet but this woman anointed His feet with fragrant oil.

V47. Therefore. the many sins of this woman are forgiven because she has shown much love of Him. But those who have little to be forgiven shows little love.

V48. Jesus then said to the woman "Your sins are forgiven".

V49. Those who were sat at the table with Him began to say within themselves "who is this man who even forgives sin".

V50. But Jesus said to the woman it is your faith in me that has saved you, go in peace (Ephesians 2:8).