Sermon Outline
It is a Matter of the Heart
Dr. Paul Cannings, Pastor
Sunday, March 1, 2015

A. The Religious Heart (Luke 7:36, 39, 43, 49):

1. A religious heart thinks about the Word of God and the traditions of men (Mark 7:5-8; Colossians 2:8).
2. A religious Pharisee provided Christ no honor. Did not wash His feet, anoint His head with oil and did not provide Him the seat of honor at His table (v. 36). Jesus received no service. He was only invited.
   a) That they are “reclining” rather than sitting indicates that they are using couches rather than chairs and that this is a banquet, perhaps in honor of the famous guest teacher.
   b) That she stands “behind him” and anoints his feet instead of his head has to do with the posture of guests reclining on the couches; he would have had his left arm on the table and his feet away from the table toward the wall.
   c) If the Pharisee is well-to-do, he may have a servant as a porter to check visitors at the door; but religious people often opened their homes for the poor, and the woman manages to get in. In banquets where uninvited people could enter, they were to remain quiet and away from the couches, observing the discussions of host and guests. Alabaster was considered the most appropriate container for perfume.
   d) Oil for the dry skin on one’s head would also be a thoughtful act. A kiss was an affectionate or respectful form of greeting.
3. A religious heart comes to church on Sunday but it may not invite Christ in.
4. It would tell Christ how to have church rather than let church be about Christ.
5. Christ compassion for the woman did not increase His value to the Pharisee it decreased it. Because the Pharisee believed that Christ did not know that the woman was a prostitute and He was now ceremonially unclean (v. 39). Christ could not be a prophet.
6. Christ agenda does not matter just the Pharisees. God’s agenda is not the agenda (John 14:15; 1 John 2:15-17).
7. A religious heart can make us indifferent to the needs of others (v. 43; James 1:26).
8. No compassion for sinners just condemnation. Can pass a sinner on the street and spend more time talking about how bad they are than think of ways to reach them.
9. The Pharisees believed that their works made them righteous not the grace of God (the temple offerings outlined by God through Moses).
   a) Although the priests could pronounce God’s forgiveness after sin offering, Jesus pronounces forgiveness without the clear restitution of a sacrifice to God in the temple. This pronouncement contradicted Pharisaic ethics, and most of early Judaism would have seen it at best as marginal behavior.

B. A Grateful Heart (Luke 7:38, 44-47):

1. Hearing and accepting the message was not enough. Experiencing forgiveness was everything.
2. This woman has less information about Christ but a bigger heart.
3. Not warm to Jesus (no friendly greeting – kiss); the woman worshipped Him – she continually caressed Jesus’ feet – her soul belong to Him for rescuing her. He redeemed her from the slavery of sin.
4. The signs of a sincere heart:
a) She sought out the house where Jesus was. She did not have to be invited. 
b) Sincere worship – she anointed His feet with perfume. 
c) Her worship was continuous – she never stopped. 
d) She loved Christ from her heart – she caressed His feet. 
e) She loved Christ with all her soul – she cried like rain drops and continually wiped His feet. 
f) She loved Christ with all her mind – she brought with her an expensive jar of perfume.

5. Christ request of us to worship Him with a sincere heart (Hebrews 10:22-25).
6. Anointing the head with oil – sign of respect. The woman sacrificially served Christ.
7. A true repentant heart experiences God’s forgiveness (vv. 46-48, 50).
   a) But the woman was not forgiven because of her love; rather, she loved because she was forgiven (vv. 47-48). Her faith brought her salvation: Your faith has saved you; go in peace (cf. 8:48).

C. A Surrendered Heart Blesses God’s Agenda (Luke 8:2-3):
   1. Kingdom of God – Christ was focused on expanded God’s kingdom agenda.
   2. Some women (v. 2)/many others (v.3) – Those who Christ rescued feel in love with Christ.
   3. Some women (v. 2)/many others (v.3) – These women understanding of His grace empowered them to serve Him.
   4. Some women (v. 2)/many others (v.3) – These women personal needs was secondary to supporting Christ mission.
   5. Some women (v. 2)/many others (vs.3) – These women sacrificially served Christ and the disciples.
   6. Many people followed Jesus:
      a) The twelve – they had a special relationship with Christ.
      b) Those healed - They had a special appreciation for the loving kindness provided by Christ.
      c) Mary Magdalene – healed and fully surrendered to Christ (John 20:1-18).
      d) Joanna – prominent people became an active part of Christ ministry.
   7. Contributing - many people:
      a) Assisted in managing Christ ministry.
      b) They cared for the needs of Christ and the disciples. ****It is possible they cooked and served the disciples meals.
      c) These duties were done with much sacrifice because Christ was going from city to city.
      d) Private means – They financially supported Christ ministry with their own wages and food.
      e) Support – They purposed to sustain the ministry.
      f) They were committed to Christ work like a faithful slave.
      g) Romans 16:3-16 – Paul had many women who served him.

8. These people were not serving so they can be blessed, they were serving so that others would be blessed by God.

D. A Selfless, Worshipful Heart Blesses Christ (John 12:3b-6):
   1. Jesus purposes did not go to Jerusalem:
      a) Jesus had become very popular especially since He had raised Lazarus from the dead. This is highlighted when he enters Jerusalem and the people spread palm leaves. As a result the Pharisees wanted to kill him especially since the high priest prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation. They were upset that many of the people believed in Jesus after raising Lazarus from the dead (11:45-47). Some of the people however, did not believe that went and told the Pharisees what Jesus had done.
      b) Everyone gathered in Lazarus house because they were in awe of the raising of Lazarus just a few days earlier, and because they believed in Him (11:45), and because they respected His teaching, but Mary had passed all of that she wanted to totally be devoted to Jesus.
2. She took a decisive act as soon as Christ came in the door. She did not seem to care about what any of her family think about it and anyone else.
3. Mary had set this aside for the express purpose of worship.
4. It was Mary’s own initiative and she was purposeful.
5. Jesus did something for their family that no else could have done. She is totally focused especially since He did not have to raise Lazarus.
6. Costly perfume – **Complete sacrifice** - Mary on her own initiative took very expensive perfume, maybe as much as 1,500 dollars (2 Samuel 24:24). It would have required a year’s wages from a common laborer to purchase that ointment.
7. Anointed His feet - Further, it showed her humility, for it was a servant's work to attend to the feet. To untie someone's sandals was a menial task, fit for a slave. She became His slave – He is her Lord.
   a) Poured over Jesus’ body (Matt. 26:12; Mark 14:8) as well as His feet – normally it is poured on the head.
   b) It was also an unusual act, because she poured the oil on Jesus' feet as well.
   c) She used her hair to wipe His feet. She did not care what society thought about her (a respectable woman did not unbind her hair in public).
8. Her act of love and worship was public, spontaneous, sacrificial, lavish, personal, and unembarrassed.
9. She saw all hope, everything as resident in Christ (John 11:32). Both times she was at His feet.
10. Wiped His feet with her hair - When she undid her hair (something Jewish women did not do in public), she humbled herself and laid her glory at His feet (see 1 Cor. 11:15; John 12:23-26).
11. **Selfish** - Intending to betray Christ - He was continuously intending to betray Christ. Judas leaves right after this incident in Matt. and Mark to make arrangements with the Sanhedrin. Will a man rob God (Mal. 3:8)
   a) Mary worships Christ with an expensive perfume that was probably a year’s wages. Judas sold Christ for a month’s wages 30 pieces of silver. 30 pieces of silver is the price that Exodus 21:32 set as the indemnity to be paid the owner when his slave is gored to death by someone’s ox.