

Series: Luke
Text: Luke 7:36-50
October 25, 2015: Gospel Community Study Guide

This Study Guide is based on a sermon by Dr. Joshua Mack. You will find the link to the sermon here.

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?sid=11515411502>

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?sid=1151543470>

Getting Started:

I am going to ask you a question that is really a little bit difficult to answer. But hey, we are at the beginning and just trying to get our minds warmed up!

Who do you think is in a worst situation?

The person who has never heard much about the gospel?

Or the person who knows a great deal about God and the gospel and still hasn't submitted themselves to it?

The Big Idea:

It is one thing not to know much about God and miss what He is doing. It is another thing to know all sorts of things about God and be unable to see what He is accomplishing.

Even though the Pharisees and other religious leaders of Jesus' day had spent their entire lives studying the Bible and anticipating the arrival of the Messiah, when the Messiah came, they could not see His glory, even though people who hadn't spent much time in God's Word and who weren't all that interested at first in what God was doing, clearly could.

What was it that made it so difficult for these religious leaders to actually see Jesus?

Into the Bible: 7:36-50

Read Luke

Before we look at exactly what is being said in this passage, let's take a moment and make sure we see the context.

Jesus has been talking about the people who have rejected John and himself. What does he compare their rejection of them to?

Obviously, these people would have had an excuse for rejecting Jesus. What excuse would they have used?

Apparently Luke sees this as important enough of an objection for us to carefully consider and so he gives us a specific example of someone who rejected Jesus for these reasons.

Who invited Jesus over to his house?

Why do you think he was inviting Jesus over to his house?

What are some of the things you would expect him to do when Jesus came over to his house that he didn't do? What does that say about him?

In other words, this man would have said there was no one more important to him than God, and yet when God comes to his house, he acts like he has the right to judge him.

How does Jesus respond to all these insults? What does that tell you about Jesus?

Even though this man missed the significance of Jesus, there was someone else there who clearly didn't. How does Luke describe her?

Out of these two people, who would most people have expected to be able to recognize the Messiah? Why?

What does she do to express her love for Jesus? From a human perspective, what is shocking about her actions?

What does the good person think the fact that Jesus doesn't stop her mean about Jesus? Why does he think that? How does this good person view sinners? Why does he look at sinners like that? What does that tell us about his approach to God? His view of religion and religious activity?

Obviously Jesus does know who the woman is.

What is the real reason he allows her to show him this kind of honor?

Jesus tells Simon a story. He's evangelizing Simon at this moment.

How does this story turn upside down Simon's normal approach to religion? In other words, what was Simon missing?

If you had asked Simon, what would keep people from being able to enjoy the Messiah, what answer do you think he would have given? As we look at this story, what really was it that kept people from being able to enjoy the Messiah?

After demonstrating to Simon how badly he had missed it in comparison with this woman, Jesus encourages her by reminding her that her sins have really be forgiven.

It's at this point, that the people in the room understanding what Jesus was saying about himself.

What question do they ask?

In other words, they saw that Jesus wasn't claiming to be merely a prophet. He was claiming to be the Savior.

Bringing it Home:

In order to appreciate what God's doing through Jesus, you absolutely have to a sense of your own need of Him.

John Calvin once put it like this,

“Each of us must, then, be so stung by the consciousness of his own unhappiness to attain at least some knowledge of God.”

Jonathan Edwards once said,

“The way to obtain the end of your convictions, that is, to have God appearing and manifesting himself to you in his redeeming love in Christ, is to have your convictions become thorough. When your convictions are thorough, then you are prepared for a sight of Christ as your redeemer. Don't rest, therefore, until you have obtained thorough convictions or till you are sensible of your helplessness and your deserving of eternal misery, and that it would be just with God to inflict it upon you.”

What are some of the things that keep us from seeing our need for Christ? What are some things that distract us from really feeling the depth of our sinfulness or need for a Savior?

Summing Up:

What are some of the main encouragements or challenges you have taken from what we have studied together today?

Is there any specific word of praise you would like to give to God for what you have learned about Jesus today?

How about questions?

Do you have any thing you are still wondering from what we have talked about?

What are some of the practical differences what you studied makes on your life?

What would you like to share with someone else?

Is there any specific issue that this study has brought up that you want the members of your gospel community to be praying for you about?