

Sermon Notes

Insights from Luke

#23 – “Doing the Loving Thing and the Right Thing” – Luke 7:36-50

I. Introduction.

A. Love and loving in the media.

1. Sometimes at the expense of doing the right thing.
2. Examples – New community support group.

B. Today’s text

1. Jesus includes love with doing the right thing.
2. Luke 7:36-50

II. Exposition

A. Luke 7:36

1. An invitation to dine at someone’s home was a common first century practice.
2. Note description of a typical setting.

B. Luke 7:37-38

1. “Woman in the city who was a sinner.”
2. Unusual for her to be present and we do not know her identity.
3. “Sinner – Emphasized 3 times – Verses 37, 39, 47
4. Astonishment on the part of the attenders.
5. She is overwrought with emotion.
 - a. Socially unacceptable – The letting down of hair according to the Talmud (the central text of Rabbinic Judaism).
6. “Kissing of His feet,” verse 38.
 - a. Passionate and repetitive.

C. Luke 7:39

1. Pharisaic mindset – Judgmental and quick to C_____.
2. “This sort of woman.” Pejorative.
 - a. Possible sexual connotation – I Cor. 7:1

D. Luke 7:40-43

1. A parable is inserted to the discussion.

2. Economics is not the point, but rather the debt of sin.

E. Luke 7:44-46

1. Simon physically saw the woman, but in another sense did not see her at all.
2. Contrast between the woman and Simon.

F. Luke 7:47

1. The woman knew the depth of her own sin.
2. The greater the knowledge of personal sin and its forgiveness, the greater the love.

G. Luke 7:48

1. The bombshell explodes again. “Your sins are forgiven.” Luke 5:17-24
2. Clarification needed – Note Roman Catholic and Protestant view of this event.
 - a. A Roman Catholic theologian, Robert Sungenis, argues that “faith alone” is incorrect.
 - b. However, if faith must have work added to it, the entire text becomes distorted.
 - c. “Sins are forgiven” is in the perfect tense, meaning that this was done previous to the woman’s emotional display.
 - d. Note how the Jerusalem Bible endeavors to convey this meaning.
 - e. Her faith saved her which had been given by God.
 1. Eph. 2:1-3, 8-9

III. Points for Reflection

- A. Do we ever treat Jesus the same as Simon?
- B. How thoroughly do we see the depth of sin within our souls?
- C. The doctrine of sin is still needed to confront the world as well as a reminder for the church.
- D. In order to love Jesus more does not mean we all have to fall into deep sin.