

The Balanced Life (Part 2) When Grace Came In

(Luke 7:36-50)

Introduction: In our world today, prestige is the name of the game. To be among the elite is the desire of many. Back in the days of Jesus there was an exclusive club, and it was known as the pharisees. It was a big deal if you got invited to dine at the house of a pharisee.

Today, we are going to look at a party that a pharisee threw for Jesus that reveals that someone present didn't belong there, but it turns out to be one of the greatest pictures of grace and one of the things that made Jesus so magnetic to so many people that you will ever see.

What we are about to read in this story is going to show you a Jesus full of grace, and why grace is truly so amazing.

I. Grace receives us in our sin:

A. Jesus is relaxed as all the guests are reclining. However in moment, everything changed...

B. The whole room is rocked.

1. All of a sudden, all talking stopped and every eye in the room focused on one thing in a super awkward moment. (Lk 7:37-38)
2. She wasn't just any woman (she had a bit of a reputation as a sinful living woman),
3. Everything that she had been taught told her she was not welcome not only in this house, but particularly in the presence of a holy man, a prophet or teacher like Jesus.
4. Nobody had to tell her what she was. She knew what she was, but there was an obvious assumption here.... this woman had seen Jesus before. She had listened to Jesus before. She had watched Jesus before.

Though everything and everyone in that room was screaming out loud, 'you're 'not welcome!' Jesus had a welcomed smile across his face.

The cultural standards of that day would have expected Jesus as a holy man, to be embarrassed, to recoil, to give her a stern scolding for even daring to touch him, *but instead, her act of love is met with His act of grace.*

C. The self-righteous react. (Lk 7:39)

1. **Jesus was well aware that this woman was a sinner.**
2. **Jesus knew what kind of sinner she was.**

Sin is the only thing that qualifies us for the grace of God. We don't give up our sin and then receive God's grace. We receive God's grace and then we have the power to give up our sin.

II. Grace rescues us from our sin:

A. Jesus tells a story.

B. Jesus turns to the woman but calls out the Pharisee. (Lk. 7: 44-47)

- a. In the middle east you know that hospitality was a big deal. There is tension in the room not just because of what just did happen, but of what had not happened.
- b. In all reality, Jesus has actually been treated rudely and had every right to have gotten angry and turned around and walked out the door.
- c. Again, even though they showed Him no grace, He showed them all grace.

C. Jesus treatment of the woman.

1. This woman began crying.
2. I believe this woman was crying first for gladness for the way Jesus had treated her, But also out of sadness for the way they had treated him.

The one who should have recognized Jesus didn't and the one who shouldn't have recognized Jesus did. Do you know the difference? Simon wanted to put Jesus in his place. This woman wanted to thank Jesus for His grace.

- a. This is why Jesus says these stinging words to Simon. (Lk 7:47)
- b. *"Then Jesus said to her, "your sins are forgiven."* (luke 7:48) A simple sentence of four words, but an eternal life-changer.

III. Grace releases us from our sin:

A. This parable allowed Jesus to put Simon in his place. (Lk. 7:40-43)

B. This parable is a simple story.

1. There were two men who owed a debt neither could pay.
2. What Jesus was saying to Simon, He was saying to all of us.
 - a. There may be people out there that are ten times the sinner, and we may think we are ten times better than the people out there.
 - b. The truth is not only are we all sinners; we are all spiritually bankrupt. We all owe a sin debt that we can never pay off.

B. This parable was about the people at the party and us.

1. It is one thing to think you don't deserve grace (by the way none of us do).
2. It is another thing all together to think you don't need grace (by the way all of us do).
3. The two people at this party could not have been more different.
4. So, what does this have to do with us?
 - a. It is only when we see your goodness is worthless that we will see God's grace as priceless.
 - b. We will never see how great a Savior Jesus is until we see how great a sinner we are.

Conclusion: Let me encourage you to take a moment and start seeing things differently in light of the events of this party, specifically three things.

1. **See yourself the way you really are.** Just like everyone else a sinner in need of grace.
2. **See others the way they are.** No worse than you are and no better than you are. Just sinners in need of grace.
3. **See Jesus the way He is** - always full of grace that we all fully need. Just listen to how the party ends. (Lk 7:49-50)