

THE WORD BECAME FLESH



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#16 - The Anointing of the Sinful Woman Luke 7:18-50

PICTURES (Note: Inserted in brackets at the appropriate place in the lesson is the number of the picture to show the students.)

- 16-1 John the Baptist in prison
- 16-2 Sinful woman anointing Jesus' feet

REVIEW (Before teaching lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review)
Who was the centurion? Why did he send for Jesus? What did he tell Jesus before Jesus got to his house? Why was Jesus amazed at the centurion? What did Jesus do for the widow? Why did he do that?
- **Big Question Review: What is Faith?**
Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review: Hebrews 11:6**
Faith is believing God.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

LESSON CONTENT

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

This lesson begins with John the Baptist in prison. (picture 16-1) Who was John the Baptist? John was the one God sent to prepare the way for the Messiah. He called people to repent from their sins. He was the one who baptized Jesus in the Jordan River when the Father spoke from heaven and the Holy Spirit came down in bodily form as a dove.

Why do you think John the Baptist was in prison? John told people that they were sinners and needed to repent. He was in prison because he told the ruler King Herod that he was wrong for taking his brother's wife to be his wife.

While John was in prison, his disciples went to tell him about all the things that Jesus was doing, the people he healed and the things he said.

Luke 7:18-23

¹⁸John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, ¹⁹he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"

²⁰When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?'"

²¹At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. ²²So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. ²³Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

What did John mean by the question "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" He wanted Jesus to tell him whether or not he was the Messiah.

What did John already know about Jesus? He knew from when he baptized Jesus that he was the one God had sent as the Father spoke from heaven.

Why do you think John doubted who Jesus was? He was probably discouraged, being put in prison for speaking the truth. Maybe Jesus wasn't meeting his expectations of what the Messiah should be like and do.

How did Jesus answer John's question about whether he was the one to come? He related all that he was doing. What he was doing testified to who he was. No one could do the things Jesus did without the power of God in him.

Why didn't Jesus answer John's question directly? He wanted him to reason through what he saw and heard. He wants us all of us to believe in him through faith in what he has said and done.

Luke 7:24-35

²⁴After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ²⁵If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and

indulge in luxury are in palaces. ²⁶But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is the one about whom it is written:

" 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ²⁸I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

²⁹(All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged that God's way was right, because they had been baptized by John. ³⁰But the Pharisees and experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.)

³¹"To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? ³²They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other:

" 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not cry.'

³³For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.'³⁴The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners." ' ³⁵But wisdom is proved right by all her children."

What did Jesus say about John? He was more than a prophet; he was the messenger who was to prepare the way for the Messiah.

What does Jesus mean when he says, I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.?" There are two types of birth, physical and spiritual. Spiritual birth ushers us into God's eternal kingdom when we die. Whoever is with God eternally is in a greater position than the greatest person physically alive on earth.

How did John come to people? He came in a harsh way, pointing out that they were sinners. He lived an austere life, living in the desert and eating locusts and wild honey. He didn't indulge in the luxuries of the world.

Why did people reject John? Besides pointing out that they were sinners, people thought he was strange and had a demon because of the way he lived.

How did Jesus come? Jesus lived with people. He went to parties and enjoyed people and what they were doing. He showed God's love to people who needed to know about God.

Why did the religious leaders reject Jesus? They said he was a friend of sinners. Religious people wanted to think of themselves as being right and better than others and wouldn't associate with people they thought of as being sinners. Jesus challenged their view of themselves. He associated with those who recognized their need for a Savior. They knew they were sinners who needed to be forgiven for their sin.

What does it mean that "wisdom is proved right by her children"? The fruit that people produce shows the value of what they believe and do. Both John and Jesus changed people's lives for the better. They caused people to see their need for God. People were better off by listening to Jesus.

Luke 7:36-50 (picture 16-2)

³⁶Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, ³⁸and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

³⁹When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

⁴⁰Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," he said.

⁴¹"Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

⁴³Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

⁴⁴Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

⁴⁸Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

⁴⁹The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

⁵⁰Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Who were the Pharisees? They were religious teachers who lived by the law and tradition. They thought they were righteous followers of God. People looked to them as examples of how to live.

What did Jesus call the Pharisees? Hypocrites What does that mean? A hypocrite is a person who puts on a false appearance of virtue or religion or who acts in contradiction to his or her stated beliefs or feelings.

What kind of person was the woman? She was someone people didn't want to associate with. She was an outcaste in the town because of her sinful life.

What did the woman do to Jesus? She humbled herself before him and honored him. She wept and washed his feet with her tears. Then she poured perfume on them.

What did that show about her? She recognized who Jesus was and who she was in comparison. She saw her need for his love and forgiveness.

What was the Pharisee's reaction to the woman? Disdain, disgust. He looked down on her. He thought she was unworthy.

What did Jesus know about the Pharisee? Jesus knew everything about him, both his thoughts and his sin.

Why did Jesus tell Simon the story about the men and the money lender? Jesus wanted Simon to see his lack of love and response to Jesus compared to that of the woman. The more we are aware of the depth of our need for Jesus the more we will love him.

What was the difference between the woman and Simon? The woman saw herself for what she was, a sinner in need of Jesus. Simon really thought he was okay. In fact, it seems he considered himself equal to or better than Jesus because he didn't do anything to honor him as a guest. That is a greater sin than whatever the woman had done. Thinking we are righteous when we really aren't, is a big problem for us as it keeps us from seeing our need for Jesus, being forgiven and truly made right.

What did Jesus do for the woman? Jesus forgave the woman her sin because of her faith.

What is faith? Faith is believing God and trusting in him.

How does faith save us? We recognize the problem of our sin and trust God for the solution. We recognize we can't save ourselves. We seek God's mercy and forgiveness.

What is the first step to salvation? The first step to salvation is seeing our sin and our need for a Savior.

What was Simon's problem (and the problem of most people) that kept him from loving Jesus? Simon didn't want to think of himself as a sinner. He thought he was okay the way he was. He thought of himself as being better than others. He judged the woman for what she was, but couldn't see his own sin.

What had Jesus taught about this on the Sermon on the Mount? This is an example of what Jesus meant when he said, ³⁷"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

Also Jesus said, ⁴¹"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴²... You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Simon was judging the woman for her sins, but he failed to see his own. He didn't see the plank in his own eye. Only Jesus can both judge and forgive sin because he alone lived a sinless life. We can call sin a sin but we aren't to judge people.

What is the difference between judging sin and judging people? God's word tells us what sin is. We can call a behavior sin if that's what the Bible says it is. We all sin and therefore aren't to judge others by thinking their sin is worse than ours. We are to look at and uncover our own sin before we before we point out the sin of others.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** Where was John the Baptist? What did he send his disciples to ask Jesus? How did Jesus reply? What did the sinful woman do for Jesus? What did Jesus do for the woman? What was the difference between Simon and the woman?
- **Thought Questions:** Why do we resist seeing our sin? What is the outcome of thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought?
- **Prayer:** Pray that you would be humble and open to the Holy Spirit and the conviction of sin in your life. Pray that you would really see all you do wrong and would seek Jesus to be made clean and right. Thank God for the forgiveness and righteousness that comes through Jesus.
- **The Big Question:** **What do we do before we judge the sin of others?**
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse:** **Luke 6:41, 42b**
We have to uncover and deal with our own sin first.
⁴¹"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴²... You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

Questions: What does it mean to look at the plank in our own eye before we try to remove a speck from someone else's eye? What is the difference between judging someone else and calling sin for what it is?

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Have the children answer the two questions individually or as a group.

What did you learn from this lesson? How can you put into practice what you learned?

- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the booklet and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse in the inside.
- ★ **This Week's Big Question:** Have the students fill in the blanks for the way the memory verse answers the big question.

We have to uncover and deal with our own sin first.

- ★ **Coloring Page:** Color the lesson picture.

- **Craft:** Plank in the eye

As a reminder that we are not to judge others, make a face with a plank in the eye.

Materials: cover stock paper, small craft stick, glue, colored pencils

Preparation: Run off craft 16 on cover stock paper, cut in half.

Instructions: Color in the face to look like you. Glue the stick to your eye.

- **Game:** Jail

As a reminder that sin takes us captive, play a game of jail.

Instructions: One person is "it" and the others run around. If "it" tags a person then that person has to go to the area designated as the jail. If someone else can get to the jail and touch the person without being tagged then the person gets to go free.

JOURNAL

The daily journal is included in the booklet for the students to complete at home. It has six poetic readings and related Bible verses. It would be beneficial for the teacher to read through and be familiar with its content.