

# Parable of the Two Debtors

## Lk. 7:36-50

- I. The parable (vv. 41-43)
  - A. A creditor had two debtors (vv. 41-42)
    - 1. One owed five hundred (v. 41)
    - 2. The other owed fifty (v. 41)
    - 3. Neither could pay so he forgave both debts (v. 42)
  - B. The question & answer (vv. 42-43)
    - 1. Which will love him most (v. 42)
    - 2. The one to whom he forgave most (v. 43)
- II. The events precipitating the parable (vv. 36-40)
  - A. A Pharisee invites Jesus to eat (v. 36)
  - B. A woman attends to Jesus' feet (vv. 37-38)
    - 1. Known as a sinner (v. 37)
    - 2. Woman washed, kissed & anointed Jesus' feet (v. 38)
  - C. The Pharisee's attitude toward Jesus (v. 39)
    - 1. Doubted Jesus was a prophet
    - 2. Thought Jesus wouldn't let this sinner touch Him
  - D. Jesus knew the Pharisee's thoughts & responds (v. 40)
- III. The application of the parable (vv. 44-50)
  - A. Customary courtesies were not extended (vv. 44-46)
    - 1. Pharisee provided no water to wash feet but woman did (v. 44)
    - 2. Pharisee gave no kiss but woman did (v. 45)
    - 3. Pharisee didn't anoint with oil but woman did (v. 46)
  - B. Forgiveness is a measure of love (v. 47)
    - 1. Woman's many sins were forgiven because she loved much
    - 2. When little is forgiven, little love follows
  - C. Jesus forgives her (vv. 48-50)
    - 1. Tells her she is forgiven of sins (v. 48)
    - 2. Company wonders who Jesus is that forgives sin (v. 49)
    - 3. Her faith saved her (v. 50)
- IV. Lessons from the parable & surrounding account
  - A. Attitude toward sinners (cf. v. 39)
    - 1. Evil companionships corrupt (1 Co. 15:33; cf. Ps. 1; Pr. 24:1)
      - a) Implies close association
      - b) Doesn't imply all associations (1 Co. 5:9-10)
      - c) Authorized to eat with sinners (1 Co. 10:27)
    - 2. Shouldn't be self-righteous & despise sinners (Lk. 18:9, 14)
    - 3. Hate sin (Ro. 12:9; cf. Ps. 97:10) but love sinners (Mt. 22:39; Mk. 12:31; Lk. 10:27)
  - B. Jesus' mission & power (cf. v. 48)
    - 1. Jesus came to save sinners (Lk. 9:56; Jn. 3:17; 12:47; 1 Ti. 1:14)

2. Jesus has power to forgive sins (Mt. 9:6; Mk. 2:10; Lk. 5:24)
- C. Forgiveness should produce love (cf. v. 47)
1. Love for Jesus is expressed by obedience (Jn. 14:15, 21, 23; 1 Jn. 5:3)
  2. Love by Jesus is perceived by forgiveness (1 Jn. 3:16a; cf. Mt. 26:28)
- D. Faith manifests itself in works (cf. v. 50)
1. Woman's faith was evident by her actions (vv. 37-38)
  2. Show faith by works (Ja. 2:18)
  3. Deeds complete faith (Ja. 2:22)
  4. Absence of faith exhibited by the Pharisee & his company (vv. 39, 49)