

As Jesus Taught.

Week 2

Whose loan is worth more?

Luke 7:40-43 (NIV2011)

⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said.

⁴¹ "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

⁴³ Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

Remember a parable is something laid down next to something and evaluated.

So what is this laid down next to?

The extended context. – This context gives us the understanding of what Jesus is commenting but also what the teaching refers to.

So:

Luke 7:36-50 (NIV2011)

³⁶ When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.

³⁷ A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume.

³⁸ 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.

³⁹ When 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."

⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said.

⁴¹ "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

⁴³ Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

⁴⁴ Then 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.

⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet.

⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.

⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

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

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

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

What the parabolic story is laid down next to is the context within which it is found. The woman does a nice thing for Jesus and the pharisee's use it against Him (and her).

So

Jesus uses the situation as a teaching point.

Notice the technique.

1. Doesn't address the pharisee's nor the woman, but one of His disciples.
2. Uses the convention of a parable. It's blunt but not directed at the complainers.
3. (Or was Simon the name of the Pharisee as some scholars suggest??)
4. The lesson continues.

What's Jesus getting at?

A couple of things.

1. The Pharisee's did not go by normal etiquette.
Didn't welcome Jesus into the house with proper manners.
2. Jesus is comparing their arrogance to the sinful woman's humility.
3. They knew better. – (Remember last week it was pointed out that parables don't give new information but react to a norm)
4. Jesus forgave her sins (there is no mention of Jesus forgiving the pharisee's sins)

Ok, where does that leave us?

A question: Does this follow on and expound the speck and log in the eye concept? (Luke 6:42) How?

luke 6:42

How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

Does it also give us more to go on with when referring to "Physician, heal yourself? (Luke 4:24)

Luk 4:23 And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Physician, heal yourself." What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well."

Luk 4:24 And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown.

The answer is yes but also more. Jesus is talking about how to live best. Parables are the practical in the teaching process.