

Life Group Questions

October 21, 2018

Generous Servants: Jesus and the Grateful Woman

Sermon Text: Luke 7:36-50

Getting to Know Me

What's the best gift you've ever received?

Into the Bible (Asking Questions of the Text)

Hannah was one of two wives to a man named Elkanah; Hannah was barren but the other wife had many children. The other wife, Peninnah, would taunt her regularly and Hannah's misery was indeed immense.

Hannah prayed that if God would give her a child, she would give that child back to Him. Eli blessed her request and soon after she conceived a boy named Samuel, who would become the great prophet of Israel.

What's beautiful about this story is that she did indeed give her son back to the Lord--she gave Samuel to Eli. Hannah's praise wasn't just the reflection of an answer to prayer, but it proceeded giving up her son. With all her heart she praised God in the aftermath of turning over her biggest prayer request.

1. Read 1 Samuel 9-16. What was Hannah's prayer and vow to God?

2. What was Eli's reaction to Hannah's prayer?

3. Why did Hannah name her son Samuel?

4. How did Hannah show her gratitude to God?

Going Deeper (Letting the Text Ask Questions of Us)

Luke 7:36-50

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment.

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

Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

"Teacher," he replied, "speak."

"A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?"

Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt."

And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly."

Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with

ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.”

Then he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

1. Jesus commends the obvious gratitude of the thankful woman, and contrasts it with the judgmental behavior of the Pharisees. What good came from her repenting of her sins? What good could come from you repenting of sin in your life?
2. We show gratitude in our lives in many ways - a thank you note, a social media post, sending a gift of your own, etc. - how have you shown gratitude for what God has done for you in your life?
3. How have people reacted to you when you have shown gratitude to God?

Last Week's Challenge

Last week, we were asked to look over our finances and prayerfully consider where God may be inviting us to grow in generosity. What insights came from this practice?

This Week's Challenge

In both stories, characters expressed their gratitude to God through their absolute, transparent humility. When we grow in gratitude, we grow in generosity. Take time each day this week to write down things you are thankful for, and then find ways to express your gratitude to God.