

Slide 1



Loveth Much

Luke 7:47

310 I Would Draw Nearer to Jesus

337 Redeemed!

Slide 2



Prayer... Please Open... Turn to Luke
7:36

Snapshot of Jesus... a picture of His
kindness... His gentleness... His mercy
and longsuffering...

Familiar story... Jesus has been invited
to dinner by a Pharisee named Simon...
we pick it up in Luke 7:36

Slide 3



Slide 4



Her sins... which are many... are forgiven... for she loved much....

The key... to the heart of salvation... Then... Jesus adds these poignant words:

Slide 5



Opposite is also true... Obviously from Jesus' comparative analogy... we easily surmise... "to whom **much** is forgiven... the same loveth **much**"

Now we ask a simple question:

Slide 6



Analogy allows: Jesus' words allow for the answer... "Yes"... in that one man owed 10 times more than the first

Clearly this first... was to refer to Simon... Yet we ask spiritually... Was he any less a sinner than Mary Magdalena?

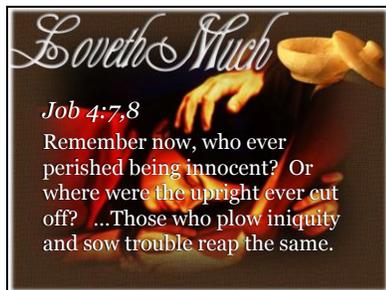
Slide 7



Not Strangers... Simon and Mary... apparently her uncle... a man of prominence... In his religious circles... but a man also with a secret life

Instrumental... Simon had led Mary into a life of prostitution... interesting how Position and popularity... can seem to hide a multitude of sins

Slide 8



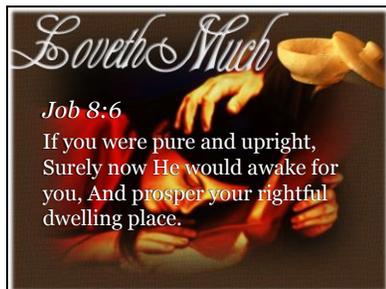
Leprosy... Simon the good man struck down
Required him to be an outcast from society...
To live out the rest of his torturous days among the unclear...

Job's Inquisition... The very basis of the argument with Job's friends... Long... long... ago

Who Sinned? Remember the disciples question concerning the man born blind... "who sinned this man or his parents?"

Cursed of God... Such were considered curses for sin...

Slide 9



Not long enough... We don't know how many days months or years Simon was thus afflicted... perhaps not "long enough"

Encounter with Jesus... But then Simon... former Pharisee...
Demoted to common sufferer and local Resident... in the camp of the unclean outside the city...

Grace in Action... The Lord graciously heals him
Thus in act... pardoning him... and as a consequence Simon...
Declared clean by the Priest... Is restored to his place of honor

Mary too had met Jesus... her sins...

Slide 10



perhaps by human reckoning... were bigger... more public... "Grosser" sins...

But... Were her sins greater than Simon's?

Back to Jesus' analogy:

Which of them will love him more?
...The one he forgave more... or the one he forgave less?

More or Less? ...Is this a trick question?
...No rather it's the Punch line... Isn't it?...

Self-Incrimination... Simon answered...
"I suppose the one whom he forgave more."
"You have rightly judged." ... Jesus acknowledges thus it is the unrighteous world

Wakeup call... The analogy is to prompt Simon's thought from worldly... to the Spiritual insight... to the way it should be!

Jesus is telling us... That our "Appreciation Factor"... is "More or Less" a matter of personal perspective

The "Appreciation" ...will be directly proportional to two conditions of the heart:

Slide 11



Self-love... How "I" view my personal value... what "I" bring to the bargaining table... = My self-evaluation/worth ... in contrast with

Sin Factor... How I view the overall... quantity and quality of my sin... "What I owe" / my indebtedness = my sin factor...

Together they make up my **Self-Appreciation**... How much I love me!

Slide 12



For Example... on a scale of 1-10

Simon's self-love... may have been as high as say "8"... while his sin factor was pretty low say a "2"... leaving him with a Self-Appreciation of a humble "6"

Mary's self-love... on the other hand may have been "0"... while her recognized sin factor was pretty high maybe a "10"... leaving her with a Self-Appreciation factor of "-10"

Thus their Gratitude or God-Appreciation... their Love response to God's mercy was inversely proportional

Mary recognized her great need and God's great pardon

While Simon was more like the man in Jesus' parable:

Slide 13



What it Means... Remember Jesus' story of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector who were in the temple? Luke 18:10-14

The Pharisee said... 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men!'

The Tax Collector... would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'

The higher one's **Self -Appreciation...** the lower one's true estimation of... Both their need of... and the value of... the free gift of **Forgiveness...** and thus the lower their **Love of God**

Often this high Self-Love is intensified by comparison:

By Comparison... Maybe... Simon's issue was like so many of us... one of comparisons... scripture says:

Simon was pretty good by comparison... especially to this sinner... He was deserving of his healing... After all he was a man of repute... talent... not deserving of a sinners curse

However... Mary knew she was unworthy of forgiveness... like the man who beat his chest and could not so much turn his eyes toward heaven

Notice... Jesus out of Love for Simon and his Disciples... and not simply out of defense of Mary... Rather... Gently but plainly shed the light of truth or their darkness

Slide 14



Slide 15

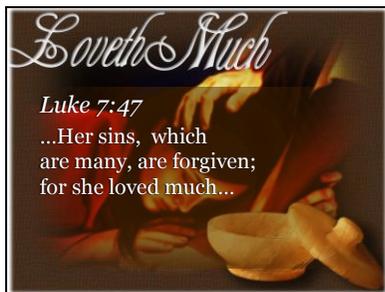


Jesus forgave... Mary not because she needed it more...
He had forgiven both equally... their whole debt

Jesus forgave her because her faith... so plainly expressed in appreciative action... publicized that she had both valued and received her pardon

This is the lesson point for us:

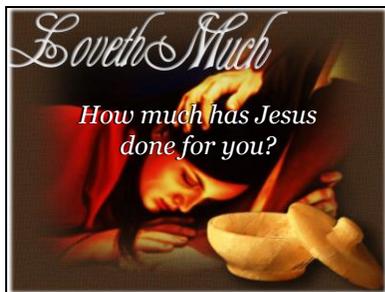
Slide 16



Simon had been physically healed of his leprosy...
but not spiritually healed of his soul's leprosy...

Simply because he was not really grateful...

Slide 17



Do you feel like you Appreciate Forgiveness?

Would you like it to increase... in both quantity and quality?

Love... can't be forced or contrived... it is more than an emotion... or infatuation...

It is a principle... born out of response to the Love God has mercifully shown to us

God offers... to create... in us a clean... pure... unselfish heart...

A regenerated holy heart... Like His that loves even the un-loveable... and forgives the unforgivable

When we... like Mary... can appreciate the heavenly Gift... Christ... then fills our hearts with love.

By faith... our hearts are drawn out to Him... made one with him... and He takes up residence in us...

Then we will... feel nothing is too costly to give him... No self-denial... no self-sacrifice... too great to be made for his sake (Yl.1900-07-19.004)

And Jesus will say to us... as He did Mary:

Thus Communion is our opportunity to come clean... to be real...

To consider the great love wherewith Christ has loved us...

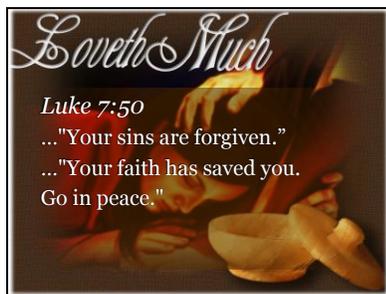
To LOVE in return

To brake the flask of spikenard and let the fragrance of His abundant grace permeate our lives...

That we with Mary... might hear Jesus today say:

"Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

Slide 18



Slide 19



337 Redeemed!