

Introduction:

- I read of a garage sale a couple had several years ago. They had decided to put out a mirror they'd received as a wedding gift. The reason they were selling it was that it had a gaudy aqua-colored metal frame and they just couldn't find a room in their house where it looked good. Shortly after the sale began, a man (who was looking to decorate his apartment) bought the mirror for one dollar. He was all excited, and he said as he bought it: "This is a great deal – it still has the plastic on it." Then he peeled off the aqua-colored protective covering... to reveal a beautiful gold finished frame underneath. Lots of people go to garage sales looking for bargains just like that. Some people have a saying about garage sales: "One man's trash is another man's (pause) treasure." I.e. Herman bought two silver dollars for .50cents. The belief is that once in a while you'll stumble upon a treasure that the owner doesn't know the value of.
- Luke 7:40-50 *"I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love."* (Luke 7:47, NLT) The Pharisee was unable to see the value of the woman.
- We are finishing the series on Cultivating a Heart of Gratitude.
- I want tie things together that we have heard and inspire to you to keep building a heart of gratitude.

I. The Pharisee's Folly

- A. Three things were expected by the host: 1) Water to wash guests feet; 2) Oil to anoint the head; and, 3) A kiss of welcome on the cheek. Jesus received none of these.
- B. The Pharisees were not friends of Jesus. Pride was keeping Simon from recognizing the gift that God was offering him. In fact, Simon the Pharisee, believes he's found the way to take Jesus out. A way he believes will humiliate this new teacher and render His influence useless. Their pride caused them to live in opposition to the 'move of God'.
- C. They lived to oppose him and this Pharisee has all the symptoms of pride. Pride stands against cultivating a heart of gratitude. It is hard to have a grateful heart if you are in pride. If you are cultivating a heart of gratitude, pride will be the rocks in your field or the critter in your garden. This Pharisee was rockin' all the signs of pride.
- D. Fruit of Pride
 1. Pride provokes arguments. "Pride...breeds quarrels." *"Pride leads to conflict..."* (Proverbs 13:10, NKJV) *"When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!'"* (Luke 7:39, NLT) He was not alone in his thinking.
 2. Pride creates misunderstanding & a lack of consideration & appreciation for others.
 - a) *"He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife,..."* (Proverbs 28:25, NKJV) He certainly does not have any consideration for Jesus or this prostitute.
 3. Pride prevents real fellowship. This Pharisee is not about to have a conversation with this woman. His words are 'end of conversation' words. He wants no fellowship with her. Usually, people who are proud will not allow you to see them as they really are.

4. And if the fruit of pride is division, conflict and strife. It is a wall in the midst of relationship. Pride separates us from each other. It separated Simon from Jesus and from the prostitute as well. Remember: one of the points last week was that gratitude encourages conversation or relationship.
5. *"God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."* (1 Peter 5:5, NKJV) *Antilego* Gr. word means to speak against. God speaks against the proud!
6. *"Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord;...(Proverbs 16:5, NKJV)* Pride is taking on the picture of an enemy of God. Satan "I will ascend, I will arise..."

II. The Prostitute's Kiss vs. 37, 38

- A. The prostitute was filled with humility! It is easy to think we humble ourselves before God. But humility before people is the only real proof that our humility before God is more than just a figment of our imagination.
 1. Stood behind and washed his feet with her tears.
 2. Dried them with her hair.
 3. Kissed his feet. *"You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet."* (Luke 7:45, NLT) She was humble, therefore she was able to recognize the gift that was given to her from God!
- B. What is humility?
 1. The quality or state of not thinking you are better than other people. In the OT "humility means to bring down, to lower ones self, to force submission. It is the moral and spiritual condition of the godly." (Theological Wordbook of the OT.)
 2. CS Lewis: "Humility is not thinking less of yourself—but thinking of yourself less. Your focus isn't on you—it is on others. Your focus is on other people—You are people-centered rather than self-centered."
 3. In the NT, humility comes from the word *tapeinoo* (Gr.)— to bow down, self abasement. Not consumed with thoughts about self but about God and others.
 - a) It means seeing others as higher than our self. The word (tapeinoo) literally means "to level a mountain or a hill." Humble people are those who have no hills sticking up. They are not filled up with the hot air of arrogance and pride.
 - b) In humility one finds salvation=the ability to see both the gift of salvation and the heart of the giver.
 - c) Humility is not pushing ourselves forward, nor is it pushing ourselves backwards. It is forgetting self and pushing others forward and upward.
- C. **Those who lack humility will not be grateful when they receive. In their mind, they do not see the gift or giver. They see something they deserve or are entitled to. This is one of the main messages of this passage. This underserving woman is grateful. Ie. I love the tears people shed when they come forward genuinely giving their hearts to the Lord.

III. The Words That Gave Worth

- A. *Do you see this woman* – these are words of gratitude because they ascribe worth to a woman who was forced to sell herself for a living.

- B. How do we know these are words of gratitude? They acknowledge the gift given to Jesus and they acknowledge the worth of the vessel who brought them. What was the gift? Her self and her humility to Christ, expressed in three ways.
1. She washed my feet (vs 44) from behind him.
 2. She kissed my feet (vs 45)
 3. She anointed my feet (vs 46)
 4. (1-3) are all acts of Humility. You have to have humility in order to express gratitude
- C. "Then Jesus said to the woman, *"Your sins are forgiven."*" (Luke 7:48, NLT)
1. There is no feeling or knowledge as precious as knowing the debt you have been carrying is cancelled! "Your sins are forgiven", is powerful to the one who receives them.
 2. Her sins were many! She was forgiven much therefore she loved much!
 3. Look at this woman gratitude.
 - a) She was able to recognize the gift given to her.
 - b) She was able to appreciate the gift given to her.
 - c) And she genuinely expressed gratitude with her tears and actions.
 - d) She was well on her way to cultivating a heart of gratitude in her life!
- D. *"And Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."*" (Luke 7:50, NLT)
1. Wow! What a reward for her humility, her gratitude, and her faith.
 2. You are saved.
 3. You can go in peace. Go in peace from this moment with the knowledge that your name is written in the Lambs book of life. I.e. Or like the thief, *"Today you shall be with me in paradise."*
- E. These three phrase of Jesus gave her worth! The first two: *Do you see this woman, and your sins are forgiven* will last a lifetime and all eternity!
- F. ***God in humility saw something in us that was worth saving and paid the ultimate price to purchase our redemption. The heart that turns to Him and cries out for salvation is a humbled vessel bringing the gift of their life to God and with all sincerity. He/God sees the gift and the heart of the giver.

Conclusion:

- You have to make a choice to grow in gratitude! And you have to be intentional.
- You will have to grow in humility to be able to see what others do give to you-policemen, soldiers, parents, employees, employers, all give and all serve at different levels but humility is able to see what they give.
- If you are going to continue to cultivate a heart of gratitude you must keep a gratitude journal! It is not an option.
- Mark Twain said, "I can live two months on a good compliment," he only told half the story. While the person who receives the praise enjoys feeling noticed and valued, the giver can also bask in the connection.
- Jesus wants us to see beyond the miracle to see Him=relationship. Connection to the heart.