

Sermon Title: Jesus encounters a Sinner and a Pharisee

One of the worst things that we can do for our faith is compare ourselves with other people.

Comparisons usually conclude one of two ways, either we come out looking great, or we come out feeling completely awful.

I think comparisons are difficult for us not because of our ability to judge the other person, but because of our inability to correctly judge ourselves.

As we move forward on our spiritual walk with God there is one comparison that we can and should be making, and that is to compare where we are now to where we have come from.

Luke 7:36-50

The Pharisee starts out by doing something good, inviting Jesus over for dinner, but really is just attempting to gain social status.

But then the sinner shows up, and she has a very different reaction to Jesus' presence.

The Pharisee had made two assumptions about Jesus, and the both were wrong.

In Matthew 18 Jesus tells us that we should be forgiving others because of how much God has forgiven us. It's that second part that Jesus is portraying in this parable.

- This is another place in which comparisons can be detrimental, is when we look at the depth of our own sin.

The standard for how we are to live our lives is only compared to Jesus Christ himself, the standard is perfection! Romans 3:23

Because Jesus was perfect in his life and he died for us, we receive the benefit of both substitutionary atonement and imputed righteousness.

We don't have to be afraid or feel guilty for our sins because they are covered over by the blood of Jesus Christ, we should just be grateful for the large debt that was paid for us.

- That is what the sinner did at the Pharisee's house, and we do that now through praise, worship, and repentance.

Challenges

- Ask yourself if lately you have been acting more like the Pharisee or the sinner?

The Pharisee:

- He invited Jesus over for dinner so that he could look good.

- He made assumptions about Jesus based on the religion and rules that he thought he understood.
- He showed no gratitude toward Jesus because he thought that he was righteous enough on his own.

The Sinner:

- She knew the depth of her sin, and was so overwhelmed by the debt that was paid for her by Jesus that it brought her to tears.
- She quite certain who Jesus was, and that he was the one that paid her debt and forgave her sins.
- She was fully reliant on God, and showed her gratitude by washing Jesus's feet and anointing him with expensive perfume.