

# Sunday Morning | July 19, 2015

## “Red Rubberband Christians”

Luke 7:36-50 James Scarborough

<sup>36</sup> One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. <sup>37</sup> When a certain immoral woman from that city heard He was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. <sup>38</sup> Then she knelt behind Him at His feet, weeping. Her tears fell on His feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing His feet and putting perfume on them. <sup>39</sup> 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!”

Simon the Pharisee	The Sinful Woman
Respected Leader	Rejected Loser
Bible scholar	Bible novice
Today, he would be an active church member who tithes, volunteers, and teaches.	Today, she would not be wanted or welcome at most churches.

<sup>40</sup> Then Jesus answered his thoughts. “Simon,” he said to the Pharisee, “I have something to say to you.” “Go ahead, Teacher,” Simon replied. <sup>41</sup> Then Jesus told him this story: “A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. <sup>42</sup> But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?” <sup>43</sup> Simon answered, “I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt.” “That’s right,” Jesus said.

<sup>44</sup> Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn’t offer Me water to wash the dust from My feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. <sup>45</sup> You didn’t greet Me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing My feet. <sup>46</sup> You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint My head, but she has anointed My feet with rare perfume.

<sup>47</sup> “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.” <sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to the woman, “Your sins are forgiven.” <sup>49</sup> The men at the table said among themselves, “Who is this man, that He goes around forgiving sins?” <sup>50</sup> And Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”—Luke 7:36-50

### 1. Jesus embodied both grace and truth.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth....For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.—John 1:14, 17

Truth = principles of God and the person of Jesus

Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”—John 8:31-32

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”—John 14:6

- Grace = an attitude or action—with selfless motives—that brings delight, pleasure, or help to someone undeserving
- Truth without grace = legalism
- Grace without truth = lawlessness

For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age....—Titus 2:11-12

- Truth and Grace in perfect balance = Jesus

### 2. Simon the Pharisee was obsessed with truth and offended by grace.

“Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”—Acts 15:10-11

### 3. The sinful woman embraced grace and truth.

Simon the Pharisee	The Sinful Woman
Wanted to change society	Wanted to change self
Thought he deserved God’s favor	Knew she received God’s favor
Focused on religion of rules	Focused on relationship with Jesus
Do’s and Don’ts	Done

### 4. After experiencing salvation in Christ, many Christians drift away from a relationship-directed reality and instead return to a rules-dominated religion.

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. ....You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.—Galatians 5:1, 4

- There is always a healthy tension between Truth and Grace.

### 5. Choose to be a “Red Rubberband Christian” this week:

Act and speak to anyone made in God’s image with grace and truth, surrounded by the love of Jesus.