INTRODUCTION
The Gospel writer Luke pens in 12:48, “...for unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required; and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.” This passage opens the door to our lesson setting in Luke’s gospel account concerning faith. “The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

As we continue our focus on faith, remember, “Forsaking All I Trust Him.” Beloved, who do you trust? Now according to the Heart of the Lesson in the Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator, “Many think that church attendance, or some spiritual activity, or generous giving or doing more good than bad will enable them to enter heaven forgiven forever. But in today’s lesson we see that saving faith is not something that we earn but is rather something that we receive. And having once received it, the gift blossoms into grateful and God-glorifying works.” Luke pens another wonderful example of Jesus’ unbiased love and offer of forgiveness to the “whosoever” of the world.

A supper is prepared by Simon, a Pharisee. Jesus is invited to this affair. Now the logistics of the supper were, though it was private, it was accessible to passersby, as it was an outdoor courtyard. As Jesus, the host and guests sat dining, an uninvited woman came in to give thanks and honor Jesus Christ for having given her forgiveness of her sins. She is later described as an “immoral woman” in verse 37. Let us observe my Anticipated Power Points:

- The Activity of the Foolish-minded Unveiled. Luke 7:40-46 (NLT)
- The Assurance of Forgiveness by the Messiah. Luke 7:47-50 (NLT)
Dr. R. A. Torrey says the following about saving faith:
“Saving Faith is believing with the heart. Rom 10:9-10
Saving Faith is the faith which works by love. Gal. 5:6
Saving Faith is the faith which receives Jesus Christ as He comes to us, and for all that He offers Himself to be. John 1:12
Saving Faith is the faith that confesses Jesus as Lord. Rom. 10:9.”

LESSON OUTLINE

   A. Public activity of an unnamed woman. vv. 36-38
      As Jesus dined at the house of Simon the Pharisee, He was honored by the acts of an unnamed woman. She crossed through several barriers, religious, social, political, gender and cultural to honor Jesus Christ. Luke says she had been an immoral. But it appears that somewhere in her immediate past, Jesus had forgiven her of her life’s past and saved her soul! (Note v. 47).
      Though not invited to the home of Simon, as an outsider, she sought to honor Jesus with acts of loving appreciation: She lavishly poured out her heartfelt tears, showed her honor by using her hair as a towel and by using the costly perfume stored in a priceless container. All done in honoring Jesus Christ the special guest of Simon. She turned her previous valuables into offerings of thanksgiving!

   B. Private assumption of a religiously proud man. v. 39
      Simon the host said nothing with his mouth, but his mind spoke so loudly that Jesus had to respond to him because he read his condemning thoughts. In Luke 6:37, Jesus taught “judge not…condemn not…forgive.” Simon the host was not showing love but judging condemnation. Jesus addresses it now openly.

II. The Activity of the Foolish-minded Unveiled. Luke 7:40-46 (NLT)
   Jesus now exposes the thoughts of Simon and all who would judge erroneously.
   A. Jesus discerned Simon’s thoughts. v. 40
   B. Jesus displayed a parable to unveil the danger of foolish-mindedness. vv. 41-43
      Simon questioned Jesus’ prophetic status. Jesus uses a parable to make a point that great debt forgiven responds with great thanksgiving. To this Simon agreed.
   C. Jesus declares that the woman was more grateful because she saw herself as one who had been greatly forgiven, where Simon suffered from self-righteousness, not even offering Jesus the minimal standard of hospitality. (Lord, help us to show grateful thanksgiving to our Lord and Saviour!) vv. 44-46

III. The Assurance of Forgiveness by the Messiah. Luke 7:47-50 (NLT)
   A. Forgiveness is granted. vv. 47-48
   B. Forgiveness questioned. v. 49
      But the sources of the questioners were not valid. They were rejections of Christ’s divine claims. John 19:15, “…We have no king but Caesar.”
   C. Forgiveness assured by faith. v. 50
      By the words of Jesus He assures the woman that her faith (trust or belief) assured her forgiveness. Not her gift but faith! “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Faith in Christ will bring peace to the soul!

CLOSING
Beloved, what is your lesson concerning saving faith? There must be a true testimony of your saving faith in Jesus Christ! “Faith that can conquer anything.” Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.” Thank God for another valuable lesson in FAITH…

Forsaking All I Trust Him!

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Please join us each Wednesday at noon at Bibleway where you can ask questions and make comments as Pastor Davis teaches the weekly Sunday School Lesson. All are welcome!