

## **A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE**

### **THE CASE OF TWO SINNERS – PART II**

Luke 7:39 “When the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, He would know who is touching Him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.”

You can tell from the Pharisee’s words that he was offended by the presence of the sinful woman. In his opinion she had no place in his home. And, Jesus who he considered only a rabbi, not the Messiah, should never have permitted her to worship Him. He should have insisted that the woman be removed immediately.

The Pharisee was comparing himself, his life, his conduct, his standing in the community and synagogue with the sinful woman. He was a fine, upstanding, devout, law-abiding Jew. He deserved Jesus to come into his home. How could this woman dare to insert herself, uninvited into his social life?

Thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought is a temptation often used by Satan. This is especially true when in a church context. He tempts us to look around at who is in attendance. He causes us as we see our fellow worshippers to make “little” judgments about them. Yes, he can even plant the thought in our mind and heart that one or two present in the worship service really don’t belong there.

Read and meditate upon the word of God found in 2 Corinthians 15:5-21:

And He (Jesus) died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be

reconciled to God. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

The devotion continues tomorrow . . .

Prayer: Lord, grant me a heart filled with love and compassion for all, especially for those who struggle with their sinfulness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord, whose love through humble service Bore the weight of human need,  
Who upon the cross, forsaken, Offered mercy's perfect deed,  
We, Your servants, bring the worship Not of voice alone, but heart,  
Consecrating to Your purpose Ev'ry gift that you impart.

Still Your children wander homeless; Still the hungry cry for bread;  
Still the captives long for freedom; Still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As, O Lord, Your deep compassion Healed the sick and freed the soul,  
Use the love Your Spirit kindles Still to save and make us whole.

As we worship, grant us vision, Till Your love's revealing light  
In its height and dept and greatness, Dawns upon our quickened sight,  
Making known the needs and burdens You're your compassion bids us bear,  
Stirring us to tireless striving, Your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to Your service, Forth in Your dear name we go,  
To the child, the youth, the aged, Love in living deeds to show;  
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort, Counsel, aid, and peace we give,  
That Your servants, Lord, in freedom May Your mercy know and live.  
(LSB 848)