

Not A Fan

Knowledge about him or intimacy with him?

Luke 7

In Matthew 15:8 Jesus describes the Pharisees this way: These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

Like the Pharisees, many fans have given their minds to the study of God, but they never surrendered their hearts. These guys had all the knowledge about God but didn't really know him. This danger is still with us today!

We have more access to the Word of God, commentary's, sermons, books, churches, Christian universities, the internet, podcasts, and the list goes on and on than any other nation in history, but "light has come into the world, and the people loved darkness rather than the light.."

In Luke 7:36 Jesus is invited over to a Pharisees house named Simon to eat. Jesus should have been the guest of honor but it turns out Simon was doing this out of a sense of duty rather than a desire to honor Jesus.

- Let me give you some cultural etiquette insight to a dinner like this.
 1. IF the guest is a person of equal social rank, then the host would greet the guest with a kiss on the cheek.
 2. If the guest was a person of high honor then the host would greet the guest with a kiss on the hand. To not do that would be like you were ignoring your guest. It's like inviting someone into your home and then refusing to acknowledge that they are even there.
 3. Foot washing was a big deal. If you had an honored guest in your home you would wash their feet when they came in. Or a servant would do it, or at the very least you would give them a water basin so they could wash their own feet.

4. And for an especially distinguished guest you would anoint their head with olive oil. This was very cheap oil but still considered an honor.

- So when Jesus comes into Simon's house there was no kiss or water for his feet or oil for his head. This wasn't an accidental oversight. This was deliberate. Jesus was ignored and insulted.

- Here is the irony of this moment. Simon has spent his life studying the scriptures. By the he was 12 he had the first 12 books of the Bible memorized. By the age of 15 he had memorized the entire Old Testament. He had committed to memory over 300 prophecies of the coming Messiah yet he couldn't recognize the messiah at his own table.

- He knew all about Jesus but didn't know Jesus. Fans tend to confuse their knowledge of the scriptures for intimacy with the Savior. And to be honest, don't we get that confused sometimes as well?

- The problem here isn't knowledge. The problem is that you CAN have knowledge without intimacy.

- Probably the best word for intimacy is the word "know." The Bible first used this word to describe a relationship in Genesis 4:1 KJV "Adam "knew" Eve his wife." The NIV says "Adam lay with his wife."

- The Hebrew word for "Knew" is YADA. And it means to know completely and to be completely known. So you get the picture. This is our context for YADA.

- It's this intimate connection on every level. One Hebrew scholar put this way: "A mingling of souls." That speaks more of just knowledge, that's intimacy!!

- With that in mind I want to talk to you about how God wants to know and be known by us.
- Psalms 139: NLT David uses this word five times. Listen. O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord."
- Think about that! The same word used to describe a man and wife is used to describe how God knows you and how he wants to be known by you!!
- Luke tells us that while they are eating at the table a woman comes on the scene. Vs. 37-48
- TO understand the tension of the moment you have to understand that this wasn't just any woman. Vs.37 says she lead a sinful life. That's a nice way of saying she is a prostitute.
- Apparently she had heard Jesus teach earlier in the day and something had changed with in her. She was desperate to see Jesus. It's hard to imagine what kind of courage it took for her to inter Simons house.
- What she does next is reckless, impulsive, it's inappropriate, and it's exactly the kind of follower Jesus wants!!
- Picture the scene: This sinful woman came in and fell at the feet of Jesus, with tears pouring down her face and hitting the feet of Jesus, she begins to kiss his feet. She lets down her hair. In those days women always wore their hair up in public. For a woman to ware her hair down in front of a man that was not her husband was considered to be an intimate expression that it was literally grounds for divorce.

- I'm sure there was a gasp in the room when she let down her hair. She began to wash the feet of Jesus with her tears and dried them with her hair.
- She then takes this alabaster jar of oil and empties it on his feet. This represents her emptying herself out to Jesus!! Jesus turns to Simon and says in Vs.44-46.
- In the end, Simon the Pharisee is the fan and the prostitute is the follower. So the question we have to ask ourselves is; who am I most like in this story?
- When was the last time you had an encounter with Jesus like this woman did? When is the last time you have poured yourself out like she did? When is the last time tears streamed down your face as you expressed your love for him?