

The Heart of Jesus

Intro: Jesus, the Prostitute, and the Pharisee

Luke 7.36-50

- The basic tenet of Simon’s theology seemed to be built on the conviction that God wouldn’t have anything to do with a hooker. And this led him to doubt Jesus’ identity.

Simon’s blindspots: God & Israel, a historical review

A unique wedding day

- If Jesus is God incarnate, it shouldn’t surprise us to find that the Jesus of the Gospels and the God of the Prophets are one in the same. If they conflict, we’ve got problems. So, we’re going to compare the Luke incident with the Hosea incident.
- God’s covenant love had two expressions:
 - It was a **jealous love** - b/c Israel would break the covenant many times and God would fight ferociously to save the relationship.
 - It was a **humble/merciful love** - b/c Israel was unfaithful and yet God continued to pursue her.

▶ **Hard words from God, the husband**

- Hos 1.2-3, 6, 8-9
- Hos 2.5, 8, 13
- Hos 11.7

▶ **Is God siding with Simon? A review**

- Chapter 1: Name your kids no mercy and not my people, b/c it’s over.
- Chapter 2: I will punish her for her unfaithfulness.
- Chapter 11: Even when she calls out to me, I’ll shut my ears.

Defining spiritual adultery (forgetting)

- Idolatry = spiritual adultery
- The root of apostasy/idolatry is captured in the biblical term – forgetting.

2.5, 8 “For their mother has played the whore; she who conceived them has acted shamefully. For she said, ‘I will go after **my lovers, who give me** my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink.’ And she **did not know that it was I** who gave her the grain, the wine, and the oil, and who lavished on her silver and gold, which they used for Baal.” (see also, 2.13; 13.5-6)

Suspension of belief, failure of recognition, functional atheism

- Forgetting has to do with no longer recognizing God as God. It is to turn – to orient our lives away from Him.

▶ Peter in the red light district (forgetting/denying)

Luke 22.31-34, 54-62

- First, he distances himself. He doesn’t want to sin w/Jesus breathing down his throat – he needs a little room to roam.
- Temptation comes & he’s in a place where he can give in and probably not be seen. This quiets his conscience a good bit.
- He sins. Jesus sees. Then what does it say? Peter “remembers”.

Seeing the connections: the heart of Jesus, the prostitute, the gospel

-What’s all this spiritual adultery stuff have to do with the heart of Jesus.

-How does this connect to the prostitute?

-What ended up happening to the prostitute in Simon the Pharisee’s house?

-How could Jesus forgive a woman like that?

▶ **Mark Driscoll, the stripper, and the doctrine of expiation**

-Why would Jesus forgive her?

The part that Simon forgot

- Hos 1.2-3, 6, 8-9 – Lo-ruhamah (no mercy), Lo-ammi (not my people)
 - ♣ Hos 1.10; 2.1 ... God *does* forgive prostitutes
- Hos 2.5, 8, 13 – I will punish her, she forgot Me.
 - ♣ Hos 2.14 ... God *does* forgive prostitutes
- Hos 11.7 – When she calls, I’ll shut My ears
 - ♣ Hos 11.8 ... God *does* forgive prostitutes

The Pharisees and their fellow prostitutes

Simon was wrong about God

- Israel was a prostitute. (Hosea)
- So was Simon. (Luke)
- God loved a prostitute. (Hosea)
- So did Jesus. (Luke)