

## **The Wednesday Word, October 2, 2019: When a Guilty Sinner met the Gracious Saviour**

When a guilty sinner met the gracious Saviour the result was blessing (see Luke 7:36-50).

The Bible tells us that we are saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8-10) but grace makes no sense to the person who has not seen their lostness before God. Just as, when we are sick, our stomachs despise and reject health giving food, so the proud person rejects salvation by free grace.

To my unbelieving friends I would ask a question... have you become aware of your spiritual destitution? Have you discovered that your sin has already damned you? (John 3:18). Instead of being pure, have you discovered that your heart, like everyone else's, is deceitful, and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). That's a hard pill to swallow.

Do you not know yourself? Instead of your works being good, outside of Christ they are either "bad" or "dead" (see Philippians 3:4-9; John 6:28-29; Hebrews 6:1-3).

So, here's a question, if you are a sinner at best, ...what are you at worst?

The truth is, outside of Christ, we are all desperately wicked and guilty before the all-holy God. Guilty! Guilty of sins, innumerable sins, and responsible for every one of them!

Terrible!

But, what a wonderfully suitable Saviour we find in the Lord Jesus. He was and is full of grace. What He was ... is what He is! He never changes.

Do you remember Simon the Pharisee?

No?

Let me then 'stir up your pure mind by way of remembrance.' Simon, a local leader of religion, 'condescended' to entertain the Master with a meal (see Luke 7:36-50). I'm sure, at the back of it, he prided himself on having such a famous man as Jesus for a guest. But, during the feast the Lord disrupted the party by announcing forgiveness and grace for a local prostitute. Simon was both shocked and offended. Grace will do that to us at times. Simon, you see, was self-righteous. In his estimation, Jesus was not for the likes of her. But this woman, this notorious sinner, had what Simon had not... she had a knowledge of personal guilt. Simon was ignorant of his.

This poor woman placed herself at the mercy of her Maker. And how did Jesus respond? He forgave her.

Grace outweighed her guilt and she went home with the Master's triple announcement:

"Thy sins are forgiven;" (Mark 7:47).

"Thy faith hath saved thee;" (Mark 7:50).

"Go in peace" (Mark 7:50).

Evidently, before she met Jesus, conviction of sin had taken possession of her. She rightly judged herself guilty, turned to the Lord for mercy and was met by perfect grace. "Perfect Grace!" What

a description of the character of God. Grace changed the dear woman's hell into heaven and cleansed her filth.

In this story, guilt entered the lists with grace and grace triumphed. It's no wonder then that we can boldly say, "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief " (1 Timothy 1:15).

So, let's ask a question, ... do you know Him? If you say you do, let's ask another question ... is He is precious to you? If you don't know and love Him then may the Lord open your understanding and may you, "acquaint thyself now with him, and be at peace; ..." (Job 22:21).

The unsaved's desire is to get away from God ... and keep away from Him (John 3:19-21). Unless grace, therefore, intervenes, your wish will be granted, and you will eventually find yourself excluded from God forever. In the Lake of Fire, there is no grace. Grace never visits. Rays of mercy make no surprise appearances. (see Matthew 25; Luke 14). I urge you, therefore, to "Believe (trust) in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved" (Acts 16:31). Rest on Him, He is the sure foundation (Isaiah 28:16).

And that's the Gospel Truth!