

## KIND 9.9.18

What kind of a God do we serve. **He is kind.** It is the kindness of God that leads men to repentance. Jesus is good news and so are we. What Jesus did, He now does through us – He came to save the world, not to condemn it – He is kind.

Great sinners make great converts. Paul, who described himself as the chief of sinners, exhorts us: Ephesians 6:23-24, to love with faith (fleshly love only goes so far) and he declared grace/empowerment to all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

Luke 4:18-19 – see the chapters between Jesus declaring his job description and Luke 7:36-50. The crowd loved Him, then they hated Him but, in His love, He stayed focus and worked the good news; through hectic times, precious opportunities and divine opportunities – He was not distracted.

*Pussy cat, pussy cat – where have you been? I've been to London, to visit the Queen! Pussy cat, pussy cat – what did you there? I startled a little mouse under her chair!* When we treat the sacred and holy as common, a throne becomes a chair. A purpose becomes a distraction.

### Key passage: Luke 7:36-50

Simon/Pharisee: in royal company, distracted by natural things. Deeply religious; deeply interested in Jesus; highly opinionated; challenged in the presence of mixed company; fanatical but not a follower; showed a form of respect but no honour or the respect due to Jesus).

This passage is an account not a parable. Jesus invited to dinner possibly with a few others; He reclined to eat, and a woman comes in. Simon neither acknowledged this girl e.g. washed neither their feet nor kissed them as was normal practice (dusty roads with a mix of dirt), honoured neither of them – perhaps 'pretending' this type of girls wasn't in the room; perhaps he wanted to show Jesus his end of town and 'this kind of girl' crashes his party; he wanted to cry but this girl did. Jesus' feet were dirty – it was unkind to leave him at the table with dirty feet.

This girl comes in – everyone knew she was a 'sinner', but Jesus never called her one but as always, and as He desire to do with everyone, took her on a journey. Behind Jesus, weeping, she begins to wash His feet with her tears. Perhaps this girl had seen Jesus before and in the face of religion, saw His genuine kindness. She comes in and in the presence of God, the Holy Spirit moves her to weep – she must have been deeply moved and desperate for the things of God to overcome the obstacles in her way. Used by people for years; brings her oil (perhaps the only asset she had; perhaps no-one to leave it with) – weeping with deep concern for Him, she begins to wash Jesus' feet with her tears; let down her hair and wiped them; kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil.

This girl is God-conscious. Simon, sin-conscious – repulsed by her actions (what the fragrance reminded him of; the disgrace in letting her hair down in public); the embarrassment of what 'kind of woman' she was yet Jesus was drawn (Luke 4:18-19) to the broken and had deep concern for Simon.

For years people may have looking down on this girl, but Jesus declares to her that her faith saved her. Simon knew the Word for years but is distracted – he is not in the presence of Jesus but of a man who could do a few party tricks. He was distracted with his favourites. Jesus shares the illustration of the one whose great debt is forgiven, loves much and Simon rightly judges that the one whom is forgiven of much will love Him the more.

When Jesus died for our sin, He also dealt with the sin nature, the power of sin. When we come to Christ it is not possible to confess every known sin – He never asked us to do that. The great sin is that we abandoned God – when we come to Him, return to Him, we are forgiven, released. Romans 10:9-10. There was great challenge for everyone around this time – so many things seemed new but were challenges to religiosity (the type of religion that was not kind, neither represented Jesus – missing the mark). It is Paul ('chief of sinners') who penned: Love with faith and with an undying love (a love that is directed not distracted by the natural).

Hebrews 4:16: 'Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy.' Sin is such a big deal - Father sent His Son to deal with it, once for all, for all mankind. He is kind and that is the kind of God we have. He is kind and He is the kind of Saviour we can serve.

What kind am I? God conscious or sin conscious?