

Sermon Notes (1.04.26)

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Rejection and Acceptance

Soul Wounds

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The Soul

That entity within a person that integrates all of the components of our lives into one life

—Dallas Willard

“The soul is the capacity to integrate all the parts into a single, whole life. It is something like a program that runs a computer; you don’t usually notice it unless it messes up. According to Dallas, the soul seeks harmony, connection, and integration. That is why integrity is such a deep soul-word. The human soul seeks to integrate our will and our mind and our body into an integral person. Beyond that, the soul seeks to connect us with other people, with creation, and with God himself—who made

us to be rooted in him the way a tree is rooted by a life-giving stream.”

——Soul Keeping, John Ortberg

Cultural Clues to understand Luke 7

Women didn't touch men in public and vice versa - it was taboo.

Religious people divided their neighbors into two camps - the clean and the unclean. The accepted and rejected.

When you had a guest over, it was your obligation to show them they are welcome by having their feet washed and rubbed with oil. And if you didn't do this to your guest, it was a purposeful slight that placed your guest in the rejected category in your mind.

Luke 7

36 When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. 37 A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. 38 As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

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."

40 Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said.

41 "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

43 Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

44 Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. 47 Therefore, I tell you,

her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

48 Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

49 The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

50 Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Rejection and Acceptance

Rejection, forsaking, desertion, excluding, shunning, black listing: these soul wounds cause the souls of people to shrink, to diminish, and to recoil.

Where you were intended to live with confidence, love and curiosity, you instead respond to rejection by shrinking, trying to go unseen, unchallenged, and unnoticed.

Jesus lived out of his identity as the son of his Heavenly Father - greatly loved and accepted.

Which is why he was able to offer acceptance, welcoming and embracing to others.

2 Corinthians 1:20

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

You belong. You are accepted. You are welcome. You are fearfully and wonderfully made. There is a great big Divine Yes written across your life.

No amount of earthly rejection can erase the acceptance God offers to you. Let that reality bring healing to your soul.