



GRACE

HAPPENINGS

A WORD FROM PASTOR STEVE:

We are in Simon's house. We are in Simon the Pharisee's house. We are in Simon the Pharisee's house in Galilee.

I don't think you understand yet. We are in the house of a wealthy man living, not in the arid wastelands of the Middle-East, but in the luscious, green, mountain land of Galilee—populated with cities whose names mean "beautiful", and "delightful". A mountain bungalow owned by a Pharisee in Galilee. To be a Pharisee in Galilee took some doing. Galileans were well known for their stubborn resistance to the Law as it was interpreted by the Pharisees. It's not that they didn't accept the Mosaic Law. They just didn't buy into the Pharisees' interpretations of the Law.

There's Jesus—reclining at a feast at a wealthy man's table, sitting among teachers of Law, religious leaders, and perhaps a few other well-educated curiosity seekers—dressed in their Pharisee finest—surrounded by elegance, fine dinnerware, white tablecloths, cloth napkins folded so they look like little Levite priests marching toward the Temple. Two forks, two spoons, and a butter knife with a serrated edge, a water glass, a soda glass, a wine glass and teeny, tiny coffee cup—and at least two plates more than you ever need...why, even the dirt floor has been swept...It's all so proper—respectable. Then she comes in. The room grows still as her silhouette darkens the door. It's obvious she doesn't belong there—cut-off jeans and dirty T-shirt.

Carefully...cautiously...one step toward Jesus. Then another, as if she expects someone to point a finger at her and scream, "this is no place for your kind! Get out!" or perhaps take her forcefully in hand and see her roughly back through the door she had just mustered enough courage to enter... but no one does. They are, of course, thinking it. Her steps quicken as she meets no resistance. The shame so heavy on her that her eyes are fixed fast on the floor. Her long hair hides the flushed face of humiliation. Perhaps humility. But our personal concept of humility is merely a speck of the anguish—the turmoil happening in this woman's heart.

Humiliation. Only once, maybe twice her eyes darted upward—looking for the teacher from Galilee. She nearly knocks over a chair or two as she works her way around the room to where Jesus is reclining.

Hear the words of Luke 7:38, "and standing behind Him." She stood behind Him – in the place of the subordinate---in the place of reverence and respect—standing behind Him weeping, tears pouring from her eyes—gasping for breath between sobs. Read on: "she began to wet his feet with her tears and kept wiping them with the hair of her head."

As the tears flow uncontrollably from her eyes they begin to wet His feet. So she takes the locks of her hair and begins to dry His feet. Maybe she is mortified that she has allowed her tears to fall on the feet of the Master. But the more she wipes with her hair, the more tears that fall—desperately she begins to lap up the teardrops with kisses as she is overcome by a rainbow of emotions: fear, frustration, shame, guilt...and yes, even love....love. Kissing the feet of the Forgiver of sins.



She produces an alabaster jar—not the expensive, Egyptian marble alabaster that Mary of Bethany used—but a simple piece of reddish and yellow pottery made of lime. From it she pours an oily perfume. Not the expensive spikenard worth a year's wages that Mary used. Its fragrance did not fill the entire room like the honor shown Jesus there at that dinner in Bethany. This fragrance, like the honor shown Jesus here, fills only the space between the heart broken and the mender of broken hearts.

Cheap cologne from a cheap piece of pottery.

But you cannot know the cost of the oil in her alabaster jar. Simon couldn't understand it either.

Worship

AUGUST 2018

John 4:23 - "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers."

Simon saw a sinner. Jesus saw a penitent. What is a penitent? Simply this: a soul who hates the sin that once he or she loved...

Simon thought he was quite a long way on in the Kingdom of God—compared to this sobbing mass blubbering at Jesus feet. Simon saw a sinful woman. Jesus saw a woman full of every possibility for recovery. She reached out. He took her tiny, quivering hand of faith and placed it in his large steady hand of help and healing. Simon didn't know the cost of the oil. He had no way of knowing that at that moment—she was much nearer to the arms of God than he could ever dream. She, being poor in spirit became rich in God.

Simon, simply proud in spirit has the auspicious distinction of being recorded for all history as the man who sat at a meal with the Son of God—and thought himself in a position to patronize Him.

Luke 7:39 reads, "Some Prophet! He doesn't even know what kind of a person is touching him!" Ah, Simon. Poor Simon. Simon the Pharisee. Simon, the good man. Simon, the godly man. To his credit, Simon represented the most dedicated to holiness Jewish denomination of his time. He was Pre-Christ, Pre-Atonement, Pre-Grace—He was trapped in the Law because it was all he knew and the only means of salvation he had available to him. Scared to death of missing eternity in paradise, he followed the Pharisee tradition of over-doing, exaggerating, and interpreting literally the Mosaic Law. It was "works righteousness" at its ugliest and most excruciating. But it was all they had. It was all they knew. Simon was trying desperately to please God by his lifestyle. Simon was an honorable man. He was probably a second or third generation Pharisee. "Holiness unto the Lord" would have been his creed.

But Holiness, as Simon understood it, was an exclusive country club. Simon's sin was that he traded true holiness for an imitation – a look alike – the "not quite as pretty" twin sister of holiness. Namely, Respectability. Also known as Appearances. Simon would have come to the Synagogue each Sabbath with starched phylacteries and a silky, shiny yalmaka on his head. That is not evil in itself. There is no sin in putting on your best for God. But where the evil twin of Holiness shows her slightly crooked nose is when Simon begins looking side to side—at the others in the congregation—jotting down a mental list of who isn't there, who isn't starched, who's not wearing a tie, who's wearing slacks instead of a dress, who has just a little too much make-up on...

Holiness. We can spot her easily. She has the character of Christ.

Respectability is hard in her judgments. Always selfish. Always thinking of how a thing will look. Always conscious of what is becoming or proper and always ready with razor sharp claws to protect it...preserve it.

Holiness seeks the sinner.

It will give herself for him. Just in her judgments; slow to anger and quick to forgive...Always seeing each and every one as a precious soul loved by God. Always conscious of what is Mercy...what is Grace...what is Perfect Love...and always ready with the two-edged sword of God's Word to protect and preserve a wayward soul until that great "hound of heaven"—the Holy Spirit—trees the rascal and brings him into the Heavenly fold.

Respectability throws a blanket over the large sins in our life and sweeps the little ones under the rug – where no one will see. And in time – out of sight out of mind.

Holiness throws open the blinds – exposes our sins to us—rubs our nose in it and then says, "What are you going to do about it?"

Holiness answers Respectability the same way Jesus answers Simon in verse 40.

"I have something to say to you." "Say it, Teacher," Simon says. "Tell me O great prophet who hasn't a clue about what kind of person is touching You!" "Tell me peasant-preacher from poor, but beautiful Galilee." "Share with me, street preacher without a Bible College degree, from your vast, studied insight." "Disgraceful! Nothing short of disgraceful to let this harlot... this prostitute... fawn all over You! But tell me Jesus... You tell me what's on Your mind..."

We'll finish up with Part 2 next month.

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

Pray for our shut-ins, send a card, make a phone call, pay a visit (call first), pick up groceries / medicines. Addresses and phone numbers are in the church directory

Wilma Davidson
Julie Lindsey
Gerry Gladfelter
Rita Brewer

Carol Sarver
Russ Hearton
Wanda Buttrey

GBC MINISTERING AT THE RED LION STREET FAIR

Saturday, August 11
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Red Lion Area Business Association will sponsor the 42nd Annual Street Fair in downtown Red Lion. Lots of FREE entertainment and fun for the entire family! Be sure to stop by the GBC tent. Richard Erick, Christian illusionist, will be performing at 10:00 and 1:00, sharing a message of the Gospel.

GBC will be praying with visitors to the fair and telling the "Story of the Beads". Volunteer to spend time witnessing to others under the GBC tent, serving all day or certain hours that suits your schedule. Training will be provided.

GBC also has a stand at **MORNINGSTAR MARKETPLACE, THOMASVILLE**, every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in an air conditioned building. Volunteer for a day or a 3 hour slot as your time allows to pray with others. Along with praying, free Christian books, information about GBC, and yardsticks/bracelets/walking sticks from Christian Farmers are given away.

Pray to God that we'll begin to plant hunger and thirst for the power of God.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL ELECTIVES

ELECTIVE SHEETS DUE AUGUST 12

Classes begin September 2

Five Exciting Classes Available for Men, Women, Young Adults, Book of the Bible and Church Membership

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!!

The choir ministry begins Thursday, August 30. Please be in prayer for this ministry, as we are in need of a pianist and more members. If you enjoy singing, please prayerfully consider joining us. Practices are Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

Communion
Remembering His sacrifice.

Sunday, August 19
6:30 p.m.

Grace Baptist Church
3920 East Prospect Road
York, PA 17406
(717) 755-0091

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www.gracebaptistyork.com

Sunday:	8:15	Contemporary Worship
	9:30	Sunday School
	10:45	Traditional Worship
	6:30	Against the Flow Youth
	6:30	Evening Worship Service
Wednesday:	7:00	Bible Study & Prayer for Adults / Pioneer Clubs / Against the Flow Youth

Rev. Steve Warner
Senior Pastor

Rev. Jon Barrett
Assistant Pastor

**JOIN THE ALL-DAY CELEBRATION ON
SUNDAY, AUGUST 26**

PROMOTION
SUNDAY

9:30 a.m.

All Sunday School classes meet in the Sanctuary
Children from Beginners' Class through High School will be promoted to next class

Including
Christian Education Staff Recognition for the 2017-18 Year and

 **Consecration Sunday** for all Christian Education Staff for the 2018-19 Year

Following the 10:45 Service
Share a Picnic Lunch and Fellowship with your GBC Family



Attend Services dressed in your "Picnic Clothes"

Hot dogs, corn on the cob, and drink provided. Bring your favorite side dish and dessert to share.

Sign-up sheets are posted at entrances to church

Bring your Favorite lawn games (ladder ball, bocce ball, etc.) and board games

Enjoy a Corn Hole Tournament
Special Activities for children

No evening service/activities



Tuesday, September 4
2:00 – 7:30

Why wait? Schedule your appointment now-- at redcrossblood.org/account-login and enter: Grace Baptist Church York. Snacks, give-

aways and door prizes for everyone will be available and for first time donors, a free pizza party will be held at a later date.

"What Really Matters" Women's 2018 Retreat

Friday afternoon/evening September 21 through
Sunday afternoon September 23 at Black Rock Retreat Center

Be blessed by a study of Philippians, *What Really Matters*, by Karen Ehman. Paul's letter to the Philippians shows we can discover contentment and joy in the midst of trials, disappointments, temptations, fractured friendships and financial hardships by prioritizing what matters most—Christ.

Hotel style accommodations and meeting rooms, buffet style meals, plenty of free time activities, and great studies in God's Word with your sisters in Christ! \$155 per person. RSVP with final payment due on Sunday, August 26. Payment plans available. Sign-up sheet is at downstairs church entrance.

Check out the retreat center at www.blackrockretreat.com.

GBC TEAMING WITH SAMARITAN'S PURSE IN PEARLAND, TX

October 28 – November 2/3

Pastor Steve, Seth Noll, Robert Moore, Robbie Moore, Timothy Zuback, Larry Nuss, Nathan Hunt, Roger Apple, Anna Kowalski, Tim Kmett, Hailey Kmett, Courtney Kmett, Hunter Kmett, and Curt Rumsey will be serving the Lord and the people of Pearland, Texas, in October. The GBC team will be joining other Samaritan's Purse volunteers assisting homeowners following Hurricane Harvey which hit Texas as a Category 4 storm and caused considerable damage. Be in prayer for our team and all the "rebuild workers."

WHO SAID? "LORD HELP MY POOR SOUL"

These were the dying words of Edgar Allen Poe. Reminds one of the man on the cross next to Jesus. Luke 23:42 "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Jesus responded in verse 43 "...today you shall be with me in Paradise."

Perhaps, when Poe wrote about the Raven "softly tap, tap, tapping on my chamber door", it was Christ standing at his door and knocking, wanting to be invited into Poe's heart.

This tortured, gifted man could very well be in the presence of our Lord right now. Do you know someone that needs you to represent Jesus by knocking on their door and sharing His salvation message? Well, start knocking and prevent a sinner from being tortured for eternity.



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"Office Maintenance? Could you send someone up to the 9th floor to adjust my attitude and install more patience?"

