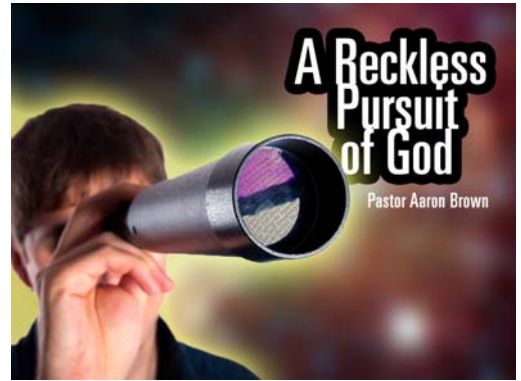


Sermon Discussion Guide January 29, 2012



1. Read Luke 7:36-50. Pastor Brown shared four things we can learn about a reckless pursuit of God from this woman's story.

- a. **A reckless pursuit of God pays no attention to what others are thinking or saying.** This is seen by the woman's weeping. Do you think her weeping was obvious to others? Do you think she cared?

Are we distracted in our pursuit of God by the opinions of others? What insight does 1 Timothy 4:12 give to us?

- b. **A reckless pursuit of God is always done in an attitude of humility.** This is seen by the woman's wiping his feet with her hair. How does this display a posture of humility?

Read Philippians 2:3-8 and Colossians 3:12-17 for some practical ways you can develop an attitude of humility.

Do you agree with Pastor Brown's definition of humility? *Humility is seeing ourselves as we really are in light of God's mercy and grace.*

What do these quotes have to teach us about humility?

The Presence Based Church, like Mary, is always at the feet of Jesus—in good times and bad. It is where they bring their joy and their sorrow. Board meetings are at the feet of Jesus. Small groups worship at the feet of Jesus. The worship leaders usher the congregation to the feet of Jesus. Terry Teykl Presence Based Church

It is worth examining what can happen to any of us when we decide simply to prostrate our pride, open our hearts and let His Spirit begin to shape a childlike spirit in us, bringing us to a practical and genuine broken-unto-true humility hunger and thirst for God. Jack Hayford Manifest Presence

- c. **A reckless pursuit of God is not always comfortable.** This is seen by the woman's kissing his feet. Would you be comfortable kissing someone's feet in public?

How does Luke 7:44-45 help us to understand how uncomfortable it would have been to kiss Jesus' feet?

Does Jesus tell us that pursuing him would make us comfortable? Read Luke 9:23-24 and Luke 9:57-62.

- d. **A reckless pursuit of God may be costly.** This is seen by the woman's pouring perfume on his feet. Read John 12:1-5 to get a sense of how costly this might have been.

How have we been guilty of giving God our leftovers rather than our best? What does Luke 18:22 teach us about the cost of pursuing God today?

2. How was Simon the Pharisee similar to and different from Martha in Luke 10:38-42?

3. What three things did Simon not do for Jesus? What does Matthew 25:32-46 tell us about people who are recognized for what they did not do?

4. What reward did the woman get for her reckless pursuit? See John 6:37