

Easter Slide

The kids are using a phrase these days- You Sold the Bag.
To sell the bag means to miss an opportunity.

As an example one might say, "They were going to win the game, then the kicker completely sold the bag and missed a chip shot field goal."

or

Its been shortened simply "YOU SOLD!"

"Bro- you said you were gonna talk to that girl at school- she walked right by you in the lunchroom and you said nothing!! YOU TOTALLY SOLD, BRO!!!"

Surprisingly- as current as this phrase is— when I hear it, I can't help but think of this ancient wisdom from Jesus.

Matthew 13:44

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field."

That phrase "the kingdom of heaven" basically means the culture God sets up with a bunch of people who give him charge of their life. He because the Owner, GM and Coach of the team...he's the king calling the shots...

Jesus teaches his disciples to pray- "Father, let it be on earth— where things are broken by our sin and selfishness- as it is in heaven— where things are not broken like that."

And he says- God's reign- his rule- his culture- is going to be unexpected— its not going to look like you think it is. And from the outside- just like selling everything you have to buy a field— if the people watching you don't know about the treasure- it looks stupid. It looks like you wasted an opportunity to do something much better with your money.

To follow Jesus- to make him the King of your life- to a lot of folks its gonna look like you sold the bag.

Why would you miss the chance to sleep in and have brunch every Sunday?
Why would you waste your time caring for people that hurt you or don't really benefit you?
Why would you limit your spending, or sex, all for some mythical ethic you follow?

Why wouldn't you be the captain of your own life? Drive your own ship. Call your own shots. Why in the world would you let somebody else be king?

But everything changes when you know there is a treasure.

Everything changes when a man who claimed to be God, predicted he would be killed and then would resurrect...everything changes when he actually does that.

TITLE SLIDE “Sell the Bag, Buy the Field: What Jesus Did to Your Shame”- Luke 7:36-50

Today- I’m simply going to tell you a story from the Gospel of Luke.

Its going to show why its worth it to give Jesus your whole life...to let him be king.

And...

...this story is going to show you why we planted this church 14 years ago...and why we want you to be a part of this small but deeply beautiful movement we call City Church.

Luke 7:36-50

36 Then one of the Pharisees invited him to eat with him. He entered the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table.

Pharisee- a religious leader- skeptical of Jesus, but also curious.

HOSPITALITY

To have someone in your home is to announce- This person is the same kind of person as me- or this is a power brokerage- I’ll have this person in my home- then they will owe me and have to pay me back. I’ll have a leg up on them- the upper hand.

This Pharisee is taking a chance- but carefully. Its a calculated risk.

He doesn’t want to sell the bag- either way.

Doesn’t want to miss Jesus if there is something special about him, and doesn’t want to get suckered into losing out by following a false prophet.

37 And a woman in the town who was a sinner found out that Jesus was reclining at the table in the Pharisee’s house. She brought an alabaster jar of perfume 38 and stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to wash his feet with her tears. She wiped his feet with her hair, kissing them and anointing them with the perfume.

Several things would cause a 1st century person to gasp here.

Woman of city- is the translation I prefer. You might prefer a “woman of the night”.
A purveyor of the world’s oldest profession.

Alabaster jar of perfume- would have been A LOT of money- could have represented her life savings. Other gospel accounts speak of her breaking the jar open.

Hair down, is a symbol of sexual availability.

She is touching a man who is being rumored to be some kind of special prophet.
LAWS of UNCLEAN

And- she is, no doubt un-invited. Simon is getting nervous- would not want to be associated with her.

If Hospitality is a sign of friendship and acceptance- this woman would give everyone the wrong idea. Besides that- Simon benefits NOTHING from this woman.

How did she get to this position?

In this society- divorce...at any time a man could just hand a woman a certificate of divorce.

And then most people would be done with them.

We’re not sure- but there is little doubt that she has been unjustly treated,

This is a woman who lives in constant shame...heaped on her by her neighbors.

So she finds out Jesus is at Simon’s house- and she has got to get there.

When she arrives-

Strangely- in front of all these religious leaders...she didn’t focus on her shame. She is different.

There is a greek word (NT written in this) that captures this idea perfectly- its not in this text- but it captures what she is doing.

Kataphraineo- Kata means DOWN- Phrain means “understanding”

Down Understanding- Or to look down upon. To think nothing about. To dismiss.

Its poetic...almost. She is shaming her shame. Looking down on being down on.
But its not the way we usually think of getting rid of shame.

Love yourself! Or take pride in who you are.

No- there is not an ounce of this woman's attitude that is thinking about herself. She's not here to tell off her enemies or proclaim to anyone how worthy and capable she is.

All of her attention is on Jesus. Because Jesus is the one who took her from her shame...to this bold moment of worship.

Its humility. Its self-forgetfulness the way you forget yourself when you stand at the edge of the ocean. Or the way you forget yourself when you hold the hand of your father or mother who's dying from cancer.

There are moments that are too big to be about me and you. Moments in life where shame completely runs away...because- you aren't thinking of yourself at all.

This is one of these moments.

39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "This man, if he were a prophet, would know who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him — she's a sinner! "

While the woman is Kataphraino her shame

Simon Kataphrain- the woman. He is looking down at her...and he assumes the law. Her uncleanness rubs off on Jesus.

If someone religiously unclean touches someone clean- the unclean makes the clean unclean.

So now- Simon is looking at Jesus as if he sold the bag.

"Shame on you, Jesus."

"Ahhh such a shame. You were so close to having my respect. I might have even followed you as a Rabbi. Unfortunately- you have shown your true colors. You are another low down- dirty false prophet who doesn't know a thing about God because you obviously don't understand the way things work in GODS culture."

Sinners don't get close to Prophets. and Prophets don't get close to sinners.

40 Jesus replied to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

He said, "Say it, teacher."

This is the 1st century equivalent of getting a text that says "Can we talk?"

Maybe you should respond to that text next time with "Say it Teacher!"

So Jesus tells a very simple story.

41 "A creditor had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 Since they could not pay it back, he graciously forgave them both. So, which of them will love him more? "

43 Simon answered, "I suppose the one he forgave more."

"You have judged correctly," he told him.

Its like this..

If I go out of town- and I get detained for some reason in another country.

And I finally return home.

And one friend I found out mowed my lawn for me every week during the summer months. I love him. What a good friend.

And then my other friend I find out he paid my mortgage every month.

But not only that- I FIND OUT HE PAID THE WHOLE THING OFF! I really LOVE HIM.

I have a sense of loyalty to this guy. Whatever happens to me in the future I will always remember what he did. Roll out the red carpet.

If somebody pays off my mortgage- it doesn't just mean I'm out of debt- it totally changes my financial future. What I would have sent to mortgage payment- I can now invest in my future- my kids...my church.

My whole attitude changes toward that person. The lawn mower guy- sure. That was a very kind gesture- but it didn't change my life.

44 Turning to the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she, with her tears, has washed my feet and wiped them with her hair. 45 You gave me no kiss, but she hasn't stopped kissing my feet since I came in. 46 You didn't anoint my head with olive oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfume. 47 Therefore I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that's why she loved much. But the one who is forgiven little, loves little." 48 Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

This woman has encountered Jesus as someone who has the authority to forgive sins.

Its another example of Jesus' claim to divinity. Sure, Jesus never said "I AM GOD" but in the context he lived in to claim the authority to forgive sin- was a claim to be God.

If someone walked up to you and punched you in the stomach- and I said to the assailant "I forgive you" You would look at me sideways and say "I'm the one he punched!"

Likewise- all sin is rebellion against God. The king of creation.

Jesus did a lot of miracles- but he often showed people that it was a much bigger miracle that he forgave sin.

Paralyzed man. (his sins are forgiven)

all of us aim for the kingdom without the king.

I don't want anybody to control me- but I DO want peace...joy...Wholeness. I don't like guilt and shame...but I don't want anybody telling what to do.

The thing is- its the throwing off of the king that broke you in the first place. Our primary sin is a rejection of the God that loves us and created us as King. Our actions all flow from that belief...from that posture.. ..that we know how to run our lives better than he does.

There is a God that created you. He knows you better than you know yourself. And yet, in our stubborn will- we Kataphreno God himself.

We look down on Him. And say "You aren't real." or "You shouldn't act that way" or "If you would have not let this thing happen to me, then I'd consider following your way- but too bad- you messed up." Like Simon to Jesus- we stand in judgment of God himself.

So we have become generations of people now that are rooted in nothing but staring ourselves in the mirror and saying "Be proud of yourself" and then posting the picture on Instagram and waiting to see if somebody will affirm us.

Like us. Love us.

But its all empty.

We are generations of people that are afraid we are going to sell the bag, to miss an opportunity if we get duped by some religion... so we keep our options open- because having the appearance of choice is better than actually making a commitment.

So we want the sex without the marriage.

We want the transcendence- without the God.

We want the healing- without acknowledging the healer.
We want Jesus' teachings without Jesus the Teacher.

We want a kingdom without a king.

But this woman. She has been to the bottom.

She is not showing up asking Jesus to affirm her choices- she is coming to Jesus already knowing her sins. and knowing her sins are forgiven.

We don't know what encounter she had with Jesus previously- but she knows and Jesus knows what happened.

Notice- she is not doing all of this in order to GET forgiveness. Jesus says She loves because she knows she has been forgiven. Those who have been forgiven much love much.

This act of self-forgetting worship is not like all the other religious systems of the world- If you act right and worship the deity in the right way- THEN he will love and forgive you.

This is The God of the universe- knows your sin, and forgives you before you can do anything.

So notice the stark difference between Simon and this woman. Jesus notes it.

DIFFERENCE IS NOT ONE IS RIGHTEOUS AND THE OTHER IS A SINNER.

The difference is the woman is done pretending. She's done being self-righteous. She is done trying to love herself enough so that others notice and love too. She is done defending herself.

That is Simons game. If I act important and righteous enough- others will notice and treat me that way. Thats why he's hedging his bets on Jesus. He doesn't want to sell the bag. He's calculating.

Meanwhile the woman is repentant. She has turned around. And she is all in on worshiping Jesus. Do you see an ounce of "I don't know" I feel like i still need to vet this guy. Absolutely not.

49 Those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this man who even forgives sins? "

50 And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

This is the question that every single person has to ask.
Who is this man who forgives sins? And will you trust him...or hedge your bets like Simon

How long have been protecting yourself- afraid you are going to sell the bag...miss an opportunity if you really turn your life over to him?

How long are you going to go half way in— keeping your eye on how Jesus acts...to see if you can trust him.

For many of you- what is holding you back is your shame.
KEVA'S Story? KEEP IT SHORT

Hebrews 12:2

2 keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12- DESPISING the SHAME = Kataphreno

Looks like JC sold the bag- You are the treasure set before him!

This is how Our church got its name. This is why 14 years later- we are still about NOT HIDING your sin...about being honest and vulnerable...

Jesus is buried treasure...the treasure got up and came after you.
Compares himself to looking for a coin-

Sees you as his treasure.

Joy set before him. Intro Hebrews- KATapharo- looked down on

The woman Kataphren the potential for shame
The man who found the treasure Kataphren all his possessions.

WHile Simon kataphreno- Jesus and the woman.

WHY? For Joy

The Scandal of the Cross is not that Jesus loves bad people.
Its that he ONLY loves bad people

Sinners feel the most comfortable uncomfortableness around Jesus...and around the his church- because this is how God is. Transcendent- we are small. Holy- we are flawed.

Jesus did what it takes to bring us into the family.

He was lifted up on a cross, not to look down on us in judgment...but to look down on the shame for the treasure hidden in a field.

So you would look down on your shame- as you pursue Jesus.

John 19:30 Begin at "Jesus said"

[Jesus] said, "It is finished." Then bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.

Tetelestai "Its paid for"

Chick Fil A App. Paid for- repentance is picking it up.

Sell the bag. Buy the field. He is your greatest treasure.

Talk, counsel, Prayer, baptism decide to follow Jesus- lead in prayer
Yellow Lanyards.

Pray