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The Parables of Jesus Christ: Little Love, Great Love

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THE PARABLES OF JESUS CHRIST

PARABLE NINE: Little Love, Great Love: Forgiving the 50 and the 500 (Lk. 7:41-50)

SURVEY

Jesus spoke of an individual who loaned 500 pieces of silver to one man and 50 pieces to another. However, upon discovering that neither could repay, He freely forgave both. The Savior then asked:

"Who do you suppose loved him more after that?" The Pharisee (Simon) to whom Jesus was speaking, replied with the correct answer: "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt cancelled." (Lk. 7:42-43)

SIGNIFICANCE

- This is the first of at least three parables on the subject of forgiveness. (See also #22 and 31.)
- It marks the first of two occasions where Jesus was anointed. (Compare Lk. 7:37-38 with Jn. 12:3.)
- It is the only parable related during a meal.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- Three key concepts make up this parable: repentance, forgiveness, and affection.
 1. Repentance (from sin) leads to forgiveness (from God), resulting in affection (for Christ).
 2. No repentance (from sin) leads to no forgiveness (from God), resulting in no affection (for Christ).
- Here of course Jesus was not saying that God loves an especially wicked but repenting sinner more than one who is less wicked. What He does seem to observe is the first man may have just cause to be more thankful than the second man. Paul could have had all this in mind when he wrote the following:

"But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." (Rom. 5:20)

"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus." (1 Tim. 1:12-14)