

Series (Oct. 11 - Nov. 22): *Battles from the Boardroom of the Soul* by Colin S. Smith

Series Theme Verse: “Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and let everything in me bless His holy name!

Let my whole being bless the Lord and never forget all His good deeds!” -Psalm 103:1-2

Sun., Oct. 18: Indoor worship

Memory Verse: John 14:26, “The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

Sunday Message: Battle from the Boardroom of the Soul #2: “Enlarging Your Heart”

Scripture: Luke 7:36-50

Text: Revelation 3:15-16 “I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot.... Because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”

Blurb: Like the Grinch, life has caused our hearts to become “two sizes too small.” This Sunday, we’ll open the boardroom of our souls and invite the Holy Spirit to grow the capacity of our hearts, and we will become alive...truly alive! [Imagine beaming, swelled-heart Grinch!]

OPENING MUSIC: *From the Inside Out* -Sanctify

WELCOME -Pastor David

MEMORY VERSE -Pastor David

“The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” -John 14:26,

WORSHIP MUSIC SET -Sanctify

Chain Breaker

I Need Thee Every Hour

Hymn of the Holy Spirit

Worship Prayer -Pastor Andrew

SERVE MOMENT: “Trunk-or-Treat”

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 7:36-50 (CEB) -Reader: George Mix

In Luke 7 is the story of when Jesus is invited to a meal at the house of a man named Simon. While there an amazing event happens that Jesus uses to open Simon’s soul. Verses 36-50:

36 One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. After He entered the Pharisee’s home, He took His place at the table. 37 Meanwhile, a woman from the city, a sinner, discovered that Jesus was dining in the Pharisee’s house. She brought perfumed oil in a vase made of alabaster. 38 Standing behind Him at His feet and crying, she began to wet His feet with her tears. She wiped them with Her hair, kissed them, and poured the oil on them. 39 When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw what was happening, he said to himself, If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. He would know that she is a sinner.

40 Jesus replied, “Simon, I have something to say to you.”

“Teacher, speak,” he said.

41 “A certain lender had two debtors. One owed enough money to pay five hundred people for a day’s work. The other owed enough money for fifty. 42 When they couldn’t pay, the lender forgave the debts of them both. Which of them will love him more?”

43 Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the largest debt canceled.”

Jesus said, “You have judged correctly.”

44 Jesus turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? When I entered your home, you didn’t give me water for my feet, but she wet my feet with tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You didn’t greet me with a kiss, but she hasn’t stopped kissing my feet since I came in. 46 You didn’t anoint my head with oil, but she has poured perfumed oil on my feet. 47 This is why I tell you that her many sins have been forgiven; so she has shown great love. The one who is forgiven little loves little.”

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

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

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

GENERATIONAL BRIDGE: “Song for All Ages: *Love the Lord*” - Pastor Andrew

MESSAGE: Battle from the Boardroom of the Soul #2: “Enlarging Your Heart”

PP#1: Battle from the Boardroom of the Soul: Enlarging Your Heart

Revelation 3:15-16 “I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot.... Because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.”

We have embarked on an inward journey, a dangerous journey that we don’t take very often, or very seriously. We are traveling inward, into our souls, to take a serious look at what’s really going on inside us. What we do, how we think about things, what we decide, are all crafted behind the usually closed doors of our souls. And yet, in order for us to grow spiritually, in order to get to know God better, we must get to know ourselves better. They go hand-in-hand in discipleship.

PP#2: *Image of the board room with 6 of the chairs labeled with our soul’s board members*

So, to help us understand ourselves better, on the inside, I’m using Pastor Colin S. Smith’s image that we visualize the decision making we do on the inside as a boardroom. It’s the boardroom of our souls. We have seven chairs, but six board members. They are Mind, Heart, Will, Conscience, Imagination and Memory.

When we dare to journey into this boardroom, where we see our attitudes and actions being decided, we see a contentious, rancorous shouting match as each board member vies for dominance. It’s usually not pretty, is it? Such competing, self-serving interests.

PP#3: *Slide from last week with the question, “How is it with your soul?”*

This past week we’ve been doing a soul check-in each day. We’ve asked ourselves the tried-and-true Methodist question: “How is it with your soul?” What did you find out this week? Were you pleased with what you saw there? Or were you somewhat disappointed? Did you see what you expected? Perhaps you weren’t surprised. But perhaps you were surprised, from time to time, by the

shallowness of your soul. Have you been wondering how it is that your heart seems cold? How others seem to connect to God so much easier? Have you wondered how it is that such long-time Christians can behave so badly, so childish, so immature, and miss the closeness of God's presence? How did our souls become so shallow, so petty, so shriveled, so hardened, so dysfunctional?

PP#4: *Image from last week of the heart-shaped stone.*

You know, we move in the direction of what we focus on. What our soul says is of greatest importance, we head towards it...and we also find, we are changed by it. We become like what we spend our time on. When that's not God, it's called an idol, be it a noble or unworthy focus. Our false gods corrupt and shrink our soul. Life can cause our hearts to shrivel up and become a shadow of what God intends. Last week we heard the prophet Ezekiel explain this as having hearts of stone.

PP#5: *Image from last week of the with SEVEN labeled chairs, including the Holy Spirit.*

There is a seventh chair on the board. It's the chair of the board's chair. And as Christians, we invite the Holy Spirit to take that seat. The Holy Spirit comes right into the very center of our souls, takes up residence, and starts to change us from the inside out. Our souls can be changed.

PP#6: *Image of the Grinch with his enlarged heart bursting the screen from the animated classic.*

Our souls grow. They can grow less, if we focus on idols, or they can grow more, if we follow the Holy Spirit. Our soul's capacity can be changed. God offers to give us hearts of flesh.

Today on our journey into the boardroom of our souls, we are seeking to enlarge the capacity of our hearts. Our hearts can be renewed, softened, recovered.

Turn to Luke 7:36-50. Here is one of the two times that a woman anoints Jesus with perfume. Both times Jesus is eating at the home of a man who happens to be named Simon. In this story, it is early in Jesus' public ministry. This time, the man named Simon is a Pharisee, one of the Jews who followed the Jewish laws strictly. Now, in that culture, they ate by lying on the floor reclining on pillows, with their faces towards a short table, and their feet extending outward.

PP#7: Luke 7:36-50 (CEB)

36 One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. After He entered the Pharisee's home, He took His place at the table. 37 Meanwhile, a woman from the city, a sinner, discovered that Jesus was dining in the Pharisee's house. She brought perfumed oil in a vase made of alabaster. 38 Standing behind Him at His feet and crying, she began to wet His feet with her tears. She wiped them with Her hair, kissed them, and poured the oil on them. 39 When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw what was happening, he said to himself, If this man were a prophet, He would know what kind of woman is touching Him. He would know that she is a sinner.

We start in Luke 7, verse 36:

36 One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. After He entered the Pharisee's home, He took His place at the table. 37 Meanwhile, a woman from the city, a sinner [the word here suggests sexual sin], discovered that Jesus was dining in the Pharisee's house. She brought perfumed oil in a vase made of alabaster. 38 Standing behind Him at His feet and

crying, she began to wet His feet with her tears. She wiped them with Her hair, kissed them, and poured the oil on them. 39 When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw what was happening, he said to himself, If this man were a prophet, He would know what kind of woman is touching Him. He would know that she is a sinner.

PP#8: Luke 7:36-50 (CEB)

40 Jesus replied, “Simon, I have something to say to you.”

“Teacher, speak,” he said.

41 “A certain lender had two debtors. One owed enough money to pay five hundred people for a day’s work. The other owed enough money for fifty. 42 When they couldn’t pay, the lender forgave the debts of them both. Which of them will love him more?”

43 Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the largest debt canceled.”

Jesus said, “You have judged correctly.”

So, Simon was thinking—in his head—and evidently Jesus knew his thoughts. Verse 40,

40 Jesus replied, “Simon, I have something to say to you.”

“Teacher, speak,” he said.

41 “A certain lender had two debtors. One owed enough money to pay five hundred people for a day’s work. The other owed enough money for fifty. 42 When they couldn’t pay, the lender forgave the debts of them both. Which of them will love him more?”

43 Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the largest debt canceled.”

Jesus said, “You have judged correctly.”

Jesus’ point here is that the one who receives forgiveness of greater debt feels more grateful than someone who is forgiven of a smaller debt, or at least *perceived* greater and smaller debts.

PP#9: Luke 7:36-50 (CEB)

44 Jesus turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? When I entered your home, you didn’t give me water for my feet, but she wet my feet with tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You didn’t greet me with a kiss, but she hasn’t stopped kissing my feet since I came in. 46 You didn’t anoint my head with oil, but she has poured perfumed oil on my feet. 47 This is why I tell you that her many sins have been forgiven; so she has shown great love. The one who is forgiven little loves little.”

We keep going. Verse 44:

44 Jesus turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? When I entered your home, you didn’t give me water for my feet, but she wet my feet with tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You didn’t greet me with a kiss, but she hasn’t stopped kissing my feet since I came in. 46 You didn’t anoint my head with oil, but she has poured perfumed oil on my feet. 47 This is why I tell you that her many sins have been forgiven; so she has shown great love. The one who is forgiven little loves little.”

PP#10: Luke 7:36-50 (CEB)

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

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

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

Verse 48,

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

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

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

PP#11: *Image of Jesus reclining at a table and the woman anointing His feet*

Knowing Simon’s thoughts, Jesus tells him a story. Who is more grateful, the person who is forgiven a larger debt or the one forgiven a smaller debt?

Jesus then uses this woman’s amazing expression of love and gratitude to open the door of Simon’s soul. Evidently Simon had given Jesus a casual reception when Jesus came to his house. Jesus points out the difference in how He is received. Simon, it seems, although inviting Jesus into his home, receives Jesus while maintaining a position of being well situated, self-supplied, and self-made. He didn’t do all he could for his guest. Jesus, it seems, is saying, “You invited me into your home because you are curious. But really, you don’t think there is much that you need from me. You don’t embrace me enthusiastically. Those that don’t feel they need to be forgiven much show little love.” Ouch! Does this cut to your soul?

PP#12 *Image from last week of the board room members arguing.*

Mind calls a meeting in Simon’s soul. He announces, “I’ve been reading the Scriptures. I see it says that we can be forgiven. That seems important. We should have a meeting about this.”

Conscience speaks up first. “I’m really not aware of a great deal we need forgiveness for. I mean, we all make mistakes. It’s no big deal. Now, some other boards of other souls have had terrible burdens. Forgiveness is a very big deal for them. But I don’t really know of much. Memory?”

Memory responds. “Not really. I’m mean, we’re basically a good person. Yes, we have some issues, but we usually do really well. After all, we did apologize for that outburst last week, remember? I’d say our anger is fairly normal. We follow the Law. We go above and beyond.”

Imagination pipes up. “How about pride?”

Conscience: “I don’t worry about that too much.”

So, Mind asks Heart: “What do you feel about this forgiveness thing?”

Heart responds, “It’s hard to feel much because Conscience and Memory don’t give me much to work with.”

Will has his feet on the table. “Well, I’m not going to do anything until the rest of you tell me something important that we should be doing.”

Mind says weakly, “The Scriptures says it’s important.”

The rest agree together, “Well, for us, it’s not all that important. We already follow the Scriptures. It’s not that big of a deal for us right now.”

So, church, as you look into your soul, might you be a bit like Simon?

PP#13: *Image of Jesus calling Lazarus out from his grave.*

Jesus was invited to another dinner party, at the end of His public ministry. It was at Bethany, just outside of Jerusalem. This was the village of the siblings Lazarus, Mary and Martha. Matthew 26:6 says that they were eating at the home of a man again named Simon, a friend of Lazarus.

Now, just days before Jesus had come to Bethany and had raised Lazarus from the dead there. So, the feeling was very different! There was a great spirit of excitement and celebration and joy. Lazarus—very much alive—was reclining at the table near Jesus and Simon their host. Martha, of course, was busy with serving the food. Mary, however, is standing off in a corner, her eyes darting between her brother and Jesus. What a great change Jesus brought to them! And in her mind races the words Jesus had said to her outside of Lazarus' tomb, "I am the resurrection and the life."

PP#14: *Either a close up of Mary's face filled with joy, or an image of Lazarus and Jesus reclining at the table with Mary anointing Him.*

Oblivious to the norms and limits of good social practices, she suddenly moves.

In her soul, Heart had called the meeting: "This is a special occasion! We must do something!"

Mind butts in, "I agree! What a mind-blowing miracle! The Son of God is here!"

Heart's eyes widen, "Remember the perfume we're saving in the closet? Let's go get it and pour some over Him!"

Conscience blurts in, "I can't imagine a better way to use it!"

Memory says, "We have never experienced anything greater in the past. This surpasses it all!"

Imagination: Why pour just some? Let's go big! Use it all!"

Will takes her feet off the table, jumps up and exclaims, "What are we waiting for? Let's do it!"

And so Mary rushes off to anoints Jesus, and the house is filled with the smell of perfume.

Two banquets, two different souls. One welcomes Jesus coolly because there is little perceived need for Jesus. The other cannot contain her overwhelming sense of gratitude.

PP#15: Enlarging Your Heart

1. The Holy Spirit raises our awareness of our sin

How can we move from being Simon to being Mary? The key is to invite the Holy Spirit to take up the chair of the boardroom of our souls. When we do, the Holy Spirit gets our soul's board to focus on two crucial issues.

The first is that the Holy Spirit brings before the board the reality of our sin. He spreads out the truth of godly righteousness and God's judgement. This is so evident in the woman in the first story. But for those of us like Simon, the Holy Spirit shifts our focus off of comparing ourselves to how rough we once were—and how much we have improved and gotten better, or off of others around us—and how we are a bit better than most (at least not as bad as some others), and instead shifts our focus on to Jesus: who is perfect, and who wants us to be perfect in love, having love pervading all throughout our souls continuously. When the Holy Spirit starts making us stare at Jesus, we begin to realize—this is why self-reflection is so crucial—we begin to realize that we need to be forgiven a whole lot more than we ever thought.

With the Holy Spirit as the chair, the boardroom shifts.

Imagination tells Mind: "Think where we'd be if not for God's grace! It's not that we just avoided doing some bad things. We've been totally spared from disaster after disaster!"

Mind realizes, "Sin is not just certain actions, but it's in the mind, in our soul!"

Heart: “I’m broken! I feel both sad and relieved. Just think what Jesus did for us, how He loves us!”

Will says, “We can’t stay like this. We have to do something!”

Conscience and Memory chime in together, “We need Jesus more than we thought!”

PP#16: Enlarging Your Heart

1. The Holy Spirit raises our awareness of our sin
2. The Holy Spirit arouses a sense of gratitude within us

The second major work of the Holy Spirit in our souls is to arouse a sense of gratitude within our very souls for the grace that Jesus has given to us. The Holy Spirit, Jesus says in John 14, reminds us of all that He has taught us, and all that He has done for us. He calls to mind—to remember, to realize, to appreciate—the depths from which Jesus has saved us. As the English martyr John Bradford reflected, looking at prisoners going to their execution, “But for the grace of God, there go I.” Jesus—His blessing flooding our lives—is our favorable status, our privilege.

Memory calls the meeting: “We were broken! We were messed up! It’s painful to think of how we once were!”

Conscience adds: “At our core, we are as bad as the most vile sinner! We don’t deserve to be this blessed!”

Imagination agrees, “We shouldn’t be here, doing this well. We couldn’t have gotten here on our own. This is too good to be true!”

Mind: I struggle to think of how wonderful it is that we have been so loved by God! Just think of what Jesus did for us! It is too wonderful to take in!

Heart begins to sing, “O, how I love Jesus! Oh, how I love Jesus!”

And Will stands up, “Jesus has given Himself for us, let’s go lay ourselves at His feet!”

PP#17: *Image of a beaming, joy-filled swollen-heart Grinch*

The Holy Spirit opens up our souls. It leads us from a sense of self-sufficiency and a diminished sense of need to self honesty and an overwhelming sense of gratitude.

Today, I want to close by giving you an opportunity to open your soul to a different kind of board meeting than you might usually have. This time,

Conscience calls the meeting. “I’m through. I can’t handle this burden any more.”

Memory concurs, “I agree. We can’t go on living like this.”

Mind says, “We’ve been getting along so far. What brought it about?”

Heart answers, “Jesus! But what should we do?”

Conscience: “We need a radical change!”

Imagination: “Yes! Tell me more!”

Conscience explains: “Jesus has offered to take over the direction of this whole soul. His Holy Spirit can take up the vacant seat and lead us in a new direction. He promises total forgiveness and peace for us all. I propose we accept and agree to His terms.”

Mind: “I’ve been thinking about this. He claims to be God’s Son. And look at the evidence. Look at the lives He’s already changed. This makes sense. We can do this.”

Heart: “I can’t tell you what it would mean to me to have peace. I’ve been wanting this for years!”

Imagination: “I can see how this works. The Holy Spirit comes and takes over. That makes everything different. We’ll all operate under His direction. It’s going to be very different.”

Memory: “We’ve never done anything like this ever before. But I could use some peace.”

Mind: “I move Conscience’s proposal. Let’s ask Jesus to forgive us and let’s tell Him we accept his terms.”

The Holy Spirit calls for the vote. It’s carried unanimously!

PRAYERS: -Pastor David

I’m going to invite you to a time of prayer, a time of inward prayer. Open your souls to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, to change you from the inside out. If you have not given your heart to Jesus, now is a great time. You can do that in the quiet of your heart. Or perhaps you need to give the chair of your soul’s boardroom back to the Holy Spirit, to give the floor back to Him. Now is a great time to do that, too. How is it with your soul? Spend a few quiet moments in prayer.

[Time of prayer.]

Led prayer: “Holy Spirit, come into our souls....Amen.”

CLOSING SONG: *Rejoice* -Sanctify

ANNOUNCEMENTS -Pastor David

Next week’s message: “Choosing what to Love” by Pastor Andrew

Join a grow group! Some are starting this week!

OFFERING: -Pastor David

Please leave your offerings in the box as you leave.

MEMORY VERSE -Pastor David

“The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” -John 14:26,

BENEDICTION -Pastor David

CLOSING MUSIC -Sanctify