

Beets

I hate beets. Now I have never eaten beets or even tasted beets as far as I know. But I know I do not like them. I have for my 86 plus years refused to eat a beet. My whole family loved beets, but I was never, ever a fan. When served Borscht at a luncheon at a Russian Orthodox church, I tried to eat it but could not get the thought that this was beets in a soup out of my mind and so just swirled it around until the dishes were picked up for the next course. When it comes to beets, I have a closed mind. We all know people with closed minds. It may be they have preconceived notions about other people, long hair, tattoos, poorly dressed, living on the street or in poverty or on welfare, tight dresses, too much makeup. People spot things and make a judgement about others. Even the music that people like causes others to have opinions. People will say they do not like a particular worship style because of the organ or the band, or the music. Now I am as guilty as anyone else when it comes to preconceived notions even though I was once poorly dressed, lived in poverty, and now have a tattoo and am thinking about getting another one. Christ came and threw out our preconceived notions. He came for all, the rich and the poor. He sat with them all, the sinners, and the Pharisees. He loved them all and accepted them as they were. And he is in our midst whenever we raise our hands and hearts to him, no matter the music, no matter the worship style, no matter the person.

Luke 7:36-43 Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisees house, and reclined at the table. When a woman who had led a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisees house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wash his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is-that she is a sinner." Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me teacher." Jesus said, "Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

Lord, we come to you in this holiest of seasons and we celebrate the risen Christ. Help us Lord to be more forgiving, more accepting, more loving. Be with our church, lead us in all our actions and in our worship. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve. May we reach out and comfort as we have been comforted. Be with our Pastor, bless his ministry and be with his family. Be with our leaders and our staff, bless them as they serve our church. Be with those suffering from war and want in our world. We thank you Lord for our gifts, for our homes, for our food and everything we have, may our gratitude show in our doing and in our giving to others. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson