

Anointing of Jesus' Feet and Parable of Two Debtors

September, 27 A.D.

Luke 7:36-50

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Text:

Luke 7:36-50,

36. Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.

37. When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume,

38. and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

39. 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."

40. Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me teacher," he said.

41. "Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

42. 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?"

43. Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

44. Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

45. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet.

46. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.

47. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven – for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.”

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

49. The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

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

Introduction:

This anointing which took place in the house of Simon the Pharisee must not be confused with another anointing which took place in Bethany.

John 12:1-8,

1. Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

2. Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him.

3. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

4. But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected,

5. “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.”

6. He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

7. “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial.

8. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

Commentary:

Luke 7:36, Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.

I. This Pharisee was Simon, but he is not to be confused with Simon the leper.

A. Matthew 26:6, While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper,

B. Mark 14:3, While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

C. John 12:1-8, (see above)

II. While Jesus condemned many practices of the Pharisees, some of them were honorable people.

A. Here Jesus accepted a dinner invitation from a Pharisee whose name was Simon. However, Simon was not all he should have been.

B. Jesus entered Simon's house and sat down to eat.

C. Evidently this Pharisee had reservations about Jesus.

Luke 7:37, 38, When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she

brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

I. A woman of the city, a sinner, learned Jesus was in the house of Simon.

A. The woman brought an alabaster cruse of ointment.

B. She stood behind Jesus, wept, and began to wet his feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head.

C. She kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.

II. This woman who had fallen into sin recognized the holiness of Jesus and humbly in penitence approached Jesus.

Luke 7:39, 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.”

I. Seeing this the Pharisees in his self-righteous orientation thought within himself, “If Jesus were really a prophet he would have known this woman is a sinner and would not have had anything to do with her.”

II. Jesus knew what people thought in those days and he knows what we think today.

A. Luke 15:17, When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!’

B. Luke 16:3, “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg –“

C. The Pharisee thought that Jesus did not know that this woman was a sinner and that he was, for that reason, not a prophet.

Luke 7:40, Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.” “Tell me teacher,” he said.

I. Jesus said to Simon, “I have something to say to you.” (Watch out, Simon! You’re being called “on the carpet.”)

II. Simon was willing to listen to what Jesus had to say to him.

III. We must be ready to both hear and heed what Jesus has to say to us.

IV. Simon, legalistic and self-righteous, had already made up his mind about Jesus and this sinful woman.

Luke 7:41, 42, “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?”

I. Parabolic representations:

A. The lender – Jesus Christ.

B. The one who owed 500 shillings – the sinful woman.

C. The one who owed 50 shillings – Simon the Pharisee.

D. Both were unable to pay their debts – no mortal can atone for his sins.

E. The lender forgave both debtors – forgiveness is based on God’s unmerited favor/grace and is available to all.

F. Which debtor then loved more?

G. Simon’s sins were pride and self-righteousness.

H. The woman’s sins were evidently even more grievous.

Luke 7:43, Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled.” “You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.

I. Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had been forgiven more.”

A. Simon’s condescension is inferred by his, “I suppose.”

B. Simon must have still been sneering when Jesus replied, “You have judged correctly.”

II. Simon was still unaware of the true application of this parable.

Luke 7:44, Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

I. Now comes the punch line which must have hit Simon in all his self-righteousness squarely between the eyes!

II. Jesus said, “See this woman? I entered your house and you gave me no water with which to wash my tired dusty feet, but this woman wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.”

A. “Simon, I know that this woman is a sinner, but she is more righteous than you,” Jesus affirmed.

B. Jesus knew this woman was a sinner. He is a prophet. He accepted this woman’s fruits of repentance.

C. Simon withheld the basin of water and towel normally extended to visitors in that day.

D. This was a definite discourtesy! . . . an intentional slight. Simon would not have treated his Pharisaical friends this way.

E. What the snobbish Simon withheld, the penitent sinner gave in full measure.

F. Hypocritical Simon came before the judgment seat of God’s Son and found himself condemned!

G. Sentence was pronounced upon Simon in his own house! . . . and in the presence of one he had despised.

Luke 7:45, 46, You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.

I. Simon had not kissed (cordially greeted) Jesus upon his arrival.

II. The sinful woman kissed Jesus’ feet without ceasing.

III. Simon did not anoint Jesus' head with oil.

IV. The sinful woman anointed Jesus' feet with ointment.

V. When Simon was compared with the sinful woman whom he despised, Simon came up short!

Note: The ointment was carried in a box made of alabaster (sulfate of lime or carbonate of lime). Many things such as lamps, saucers, and statues were carved from this mined material.

Luke 7:47, 48, Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven – for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.” Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

I. Therefore, Jesus said to Simon, “This woman's many sins are forgiven because she loved much. You, Simon, are forgiven little because you loved little.”

II. Jesus said to the woman, “Your sins are forgiven.”

III. Simon who had been judging Jesus suddenly found himself judged!

IV. Simon evidently had nothing more to say!

Luke 7:49, The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

I. Those who sat at the dinner table with Jesus began to express their doubt that Jesus could forgive sins.

II. “Who does he think he is? He had no right nor power to forgive sins,” they thought.

III. Others may have been truly amazed by Jesus' forgiving the sinful woman.

Luke 7:50, Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

I. Jesus repeats here for emphasis his forgiveness of this woman's sins.

II. Jesus then told her to "go in peace" with God, self and others.

III. Here was one who truly loved Jesus. She would surely keep his commandments. **"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."**

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Questions

1. One of the _____, _____ by name, invited Jesus to have _____ with him, Jesus accepted this invitation and _____ at the table.

2. A _____ who had lived a _____ life learned that Jesus was in town at _____'s _____.

3. She took an _____ of _____, _____ his feet with her _____ and _____ them with her _____. She also poured _____ on Jesus' _____.

4. The _____, _____, thought, "If Jesus were a _____, he would know who is touching him and what kind of _____ she is – that she is a _____."

5. Jesus wanted a "word with Simon." Two men owed _____ to a certain _____. One owed him _____, and the other _____. Neither could pay. The money lender forgave the _____ of _____ men."

6. Which of these two would love the moneylender more? _____

7. Simon loved _____. The sinful woman loved _____.

8. Contrast what Simon and the sinful woman had and had not done. ____

9. Jesus said, "Her many _____ have been _____ - for she _____." Jesus said to the woman, "Your _____ are _____."

10. Jesus said to the woman, "Your _____ has _____ you; go in _____."