

An Inside Look at Love and Forgiveness

Luke 7:36-50

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The church we see in Acts and the people God calls us to be today must understand what happens when one gets up close to Jesus, close enough to witness what He does with all sorts of people. This will provide insight to what He will do with you.

Luke 7:36-47 “One of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him, and He went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that He was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed His feet and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, ‘If this man were a prophet, He would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.’ And Jesus answering said to him, ‘Simon, I have something to say to you.’ And he answered, ‘Say it, Teacher.’ ‘A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?’ Simon answered, ‘The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.’ And He said to him, ‘You have judged rightly.’ Then turning toward 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 has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave Me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss My feet. You did not anoint My head with oil, but she has anointed My feet with ointment. Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.’”

Important Discoveries About You With Jesus In The Room

1. Jesus is not surprised, not embarrassed, and does not avoid you because of your sin.

All she could bring was herself, her sin, and likely the only valuable thing she had to offer at the time—costly perfume around her neck.

Jesus is not concerned about what others will think. It's almost like they are the only two in the room.

2. Jesus sees beyond your past, beyond what you and others judge you to be.

Whenever we look intently at our past, we may in the present experience:

- the pain of regret
- the guilt of lost opportunity—the what-ifs of life.

The woman sees her need for what only Christ can fully provide—mercy and forgiveness

- While everyone else could not see who Jesus was, she could accurately access Jesus. Her sin opened her eyes to Him. Yes, sin blinds, but God uses it also to open our eyes to our need for Him.

- When you recognize your sin and you also own it, it breaks you and you are compelled to bring it to God. Christ then becomes more than someone you acknowledge. He becomes the very hope of being made new, forgiven, and released from your guilt. You at your end is the beginning of hope!
- How others see us impacts us:
 - We experience rejection and it impacts how we behave
 - Simon could only see her past—a product of dead legalism
 - Jesus sees where she is now and the future. Jesus points you away from being paralyzed by your past.

3. Jesus invites you to look beyond appearances to see that you too need forgiveness.

Simon hears the story, then answers the question correctly. He sees the truth, but that does not mean he embraces it.

You are worse than you think, but Jesus is better.

4. Forgiveness of sin and peace for your future is yours by faith in Him.

Luke 7:48-50 “And He said to her, ‘Your sins are forgiven.’ Then those who were at table with Him began to say among themselves, ‘Who is this, who even forgives sins?’ And He said to the woman, ‘Your faith has saved you; go in peace.’”

Jesus does for this woman what no one else can do: forgive her and send her on her way with a peace she did not have before. Jesus is showing His identity here: the God that forgives sinners.

Her tears did not save her. Her sacrifice of her valuable perfume didn’t either. What brought forgiveness and being made whole was her faith.

Ephesians 2:8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...”

That gift of pardon, of right standing, and forgiveness is available right here, right now. Come to Christ. Bring your sin and shame.

Hebrews 12:1-2 “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

The shame you carry, He put it down with a view that it would not ultimately define you.

The church that impacts the culture will be the church that is like Jesus, offering forgiveness and sending people out in peace, forgiven and free to a new life.