

## Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

Love is a verb and a noun!"



**Today's Big Question:** How much have you been forgiven?

### Luke 7:36-50 (NKJV); A Sinful Woman Forgiven

36 Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. 37 And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, 38 and stood at His feet behind *Him* weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped *them* with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed *them* with the fragrant oil. 39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw *this*, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman *this is* who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."

40 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

So he said, "Teacher, say it."

41 "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"

43 Simon answered and said, "I suppose the *one* whom he forgave more."

And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." 44 Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped *them* with the hair of her head. 45 You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. 46 You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My

feet with fragrant oil. 47 Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, *the same loves little.*"

48 Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

49 And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

50 Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

### **A Lady of the Night Meets the Light of the World... 5 S's to never forget!**

#### **1. The S \_\_\_\_\_: The home of a P \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 36).**

- Jesus loved his enemies and even spent time with them.
- What's the best way to get rid of an enemy?

#### **How to deal with critics by Craig Groeschel**

##### **We need to remember a few things:**

1. The criticism is often not about you.
2. People are quick to criticize what they don't understand.
3. Sometimes, your critics are right.

##### **How do you respond to critics?**

1. Often, you don't respond.
2. When you do respond, it's often wise to wait.  
→ If you're emotional, don't respond immediately.
3. Lead from a deep, grounded confidence.  
→ You are not as good as your fans think you are, but you're also not as bad as your critics think you are.  
→ When your emotions are high, your wisdom is often low.  
→ Don't let the compliments get in your head, and don't let the criticism get in your heart.<sup>1</sup>

#### **2. The S \_\_\_\_\_: The sinful woman's \_\_\_\_\_ act towards Jesus (v. 37-38).**

**Scripture Insight: An alabaster flask was made of soft stone to preserve the quality of the precious and expensive perfume. There is humility and devotion in the woman's act of service, as well as a great deal of courage, as she performed the deed in front of a crowd that knew her as a sinner. Although the woman does not say a word in the entire account, her actions speak volumes about her contrite heart.<sup>2</sup>**

- A sinful woman=probably a prostitute or at the very least an immoral woman who had a very bad reputation in the town.

<sup>1</sup> Article by Craig Groeschel, <https://api-assets.life.church/assets/cg-show-notes/how-effective-leaders-handle-criticism-part-2.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Quote from Thomas Nelson NKJV Study Bible.

- Jesus permitted a sinful woman to show her love towards him.
- The unnamed woman was moved to do the unthinkable to Jesus:
  1. She crashed a party that she was not invited to.
  2. She boldly approached Jesus.
  3. She wept at his feet.
  4. She washed Jesus' feet with her tears.
  5. She wiped Jesus' feet dry with her hair.
  6. She kissed Jesus' feet.
  7. She anointed Jesus' feet with a costly fragrant oil.

**Scripture Insight:** **7:38** stood at His feet behind Him. He was reclining at a low table, as was the custom. It would have been shocking to all for a woman of such low reputation to come to a Pharisee's house. Such dinners involving dignitaries were often open to spectators—but no one would have expected a prostitute to attend. Her coming took great courage, and reveals the desperation with which she sought forgiveness. Her "weeping" was an expression of deep repentance.<sup>3</sup>

**Scripture Insight:** **7:38** behind him. Banqueters reclining on couches would face the tables with their feet pointed away from the tables; one approaching Jesus' feet thus would stand behind him. *wiped ... with her hair.* Most adult Jewish women in Judea and Galilee were married, and Jewish custom considered it shameful for a married woman to have her hair uncovered, as it must be here.<sup>4</sup>

### 3. The **S** \_\_\_\_\_: Why is Jesus allowing this? (v. 39).

- Simon the Pharisee was thinking to himself: If Jesus was really a prophet of God, first of all, He would know what kind of person this woman really is. Second, He wouldn't allow this lady of the night to even come near Him because she would defile him by her very presence.
- Have you ever asked: Why is Jesus doing this in my life?

### 4. The **S** \_\_\_\_\_: Two \_\_\_\_\_ who could not pay their debt (v. 40-42a).

- Simon, we need to talk!
- Two debtors who owed different amounts that they could not repay:
  1. Debtor #1: 500 denarii—500 days wages
  2. Debtor #2: 50 denarii—50 days wages
- They were in such poverty, that they could not pay anything towards their debt.
- The creditor canceled their debt completely and generously.

<sup>3</sup> Quote from MacArthur Study Bible.

<sup>4</sup> Quote from NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible.

5. The **S** \_\_\_\_\_: The level of \_\_\_\_\_ should match the level of \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 42b-50).

- Who will love the most in this story?
- Simon felt like he needed very little forgiveness, so he showed very little love:
  1. He didn't wash Jesus feet.
  2. He didn't give Jesus a warm greeting (kiss).
  3. He didn't honor Jesus by anointing him with oil.
  4. Simon openly disrespected Jesus according to normal cultural customs.

**Scripture Insight:** 7:44 Only servants or persons of low rank normally washed feet, but all good hosts would supply water for the guest to wash his feet. Setting aside normal protocols, Jesus openly exposes his host's inhospitality. If intentional, Simon's actions were conspicuously rude and demeaning toward Jesus.<sup>5</sup>

**Scripture Insight:** 7:45-46 Greeting a teacher with a kiss and providing a guest oil for him to anoint his head were basic courtesies. Again (see [v. 44](#)), the host may have conspicuously insulted Jesus, or at least treated him as being of low rank (which most teachers would have viewed as insulting).<sup>6</sup>

- The sinful woman knew that she needed to be forgiven greatly.
  1. She washes His feet with her tears.
  2. She wipes His feet with her hair.
  3. She continually kisses Jesus' feet.
  4. She anoints Jesus feet with expensive fragrant oil.

**Sermon in a Sentence:** Since you have been forgiven much, you should love much!

**Action Steps (during invitation time):**

- I need to show greater love and devotion to Jesus. →The call to service
- I need to forgive someone who has wronged me. →The call to forgive
- I need to receive forgiveness from Jesus. →The call to salvation

**Make a decision this week?** Please let us know on your Connection Card.

**Preview for next Sunday:** Sowers, Reapers, and Keepers! Luke 8:1-15.

<sup>5</sup> Quote from NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.