

Priorities from the Parables of our Lord Jesus

Love much

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."

The party crasher

▲ A stuffy supper invitation

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.

- ▼ The Pharisees were high and holy
- ▼ The Pharisees were haughty and hypocritical
- ▼ This Pharisee was a hobnobbing host

▲ A strange and striking invader

Luke 7:37 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.

- ▼ Consider her shameful past
- ▼ Consider her shocking parade onto the premises
- ▼ Consider her shower of public passion
- ▼ Consider her shameless pouring of perfume

The pompous critic

▲ Simon discounted the Lord

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

▲ Simon despised the lady

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."

The pointed confrontation

▲ Jesus provided an indictment

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

▲ Jesus provided a parable for illustration

Luke 7:41 "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.

▲ Jesus provided the interpretation

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. 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."

- ▼ Simon was not sinless, he was sanctimonious and senseless and selfish
- ▼ She was a sinner, but she was sick of her sins and was surrendering them to the Savior

The pardoning Christ

▲ Jesus identified her faith

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

▲ Jesus issued her forgiveness

Luke 7:48 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?"

▲ Jesus initiated her future

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

1. If you're a sinner, let the sickness over your sins drive you to Jesus—He is the only One with power and authority to pronounce your sins forgiven and your sin-debt paid in full.
2. If you're forgiven and your sins are behind you, refuse to live in guilt and condemnation over your past—walk forward in the forgiveness and favor of God into the future God has prepared for you.
3. If you've been forgiven yourself, refuse to judge others as ineligible for the Savior's forgiveness and new life.
4. If Jesus has changed your life, love Him with your whole heart and soul—with extravagant devotion—gratefully, passionately, fervently, intensely, vigorously, unreservedly, biblically—regardless of what others think.