



Jesus



Lesson #2, Cancelled Debts

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- ***Luke 7:36 One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat.* 37 When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. 38 Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting 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 what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!" 40 Then Jesus answered his thoughts. "Simon," he said to the Pharisee, "I have something to say to you." "Go ahead, Teacher," Simon replied. 41 Then Jesus told him this story: "A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver* to one and 50 pieces to the other. 42 But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?"***



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- ***Luke 7:43 Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt." "That's right," Jesus said. 44 Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn't offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume. 47 "I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love." 48 Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven." 49 The men at the table said among themselves, "Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?" 50 And Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."***
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The Characters

- *Jesus – the invited guest of honor at a rather formal dinner in the home of a Pharisee.*
- *Simon – a Pharisee and host of a the dinner party.*
- *The woman – described as immoral who crashes the party.*






Simon

- *A Pharisee doing a customary duty of hosting the visiting rabbi.*
 - *Simon sees himself as being above others and certainly superior in every way to the woman who crashes his party.*
 - *Simon also seems to represent the person identified by the world as being the problem in the church.*
 - *He knows the answers, but has failed to fully understand the questions.*
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The Woman

- *Described as immoral, and possibly a prostitute.*
 - *An uninvited guest, but risks showing up anyway – almost as if she couldn't stay away.*
 - *She has heard of Jesus and probably heard him preach.*
 - *Perhaps she even dreamed of being restored to God.*
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Questions

- *If the woman was a prostitute, why was she in prostitution?*
- *Why was she allowed into Simon's home uninvited?*
- *Why did Jesus not address her sin?*






Tale of Two

Simon's Acts

The Woman's Acts

- *No water to wash feet* ←→ • *Washed feet with tears, wiped with hair*
 - *No kiss of welcome* ←→ • *Kissed feet continually*
 - *No scented olive oil for his guest's hair* ←→ • *Poured perfume on his feet*
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God looks at the heart

- *Every impression Simon had formed about the woman came from her actions.*
- *Her actions, even as described by Jesus, were sinful.*
- *But .. Simon held her in contempt without really knowing her.*





God looks at the heart

- *There are times when we must be 'fruit inspectors' for people who claim to know Christ.*
- *There are times when it makes sense to evaluate behavior and take defensive action.*
- *But there is never a time when it is okay to count someone as worthless.*






Holding sinners at arm's length.

- *Pharisees held sinners at arm's length ... Jesus allowed them to touch Him.*
- *Simon would never have invited this woman to his house because she wasn't good enough.*
- *The attitude that holds sinners at arm's length, keeps them at arm's length.*





Holding sinners at arm's length.

- ***It is often seen as 'spiritual' to be a separatist and one who does not hang out with the "wrong" people.***
 - ***This is exactly wrong – it is more comfortable for Christians to avoid the openly sinful, but it is not the right action.***
 - ***The one we are called to be like was a "friend of sinners".***
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Holding sinners at arm's length.

- *The whole notion of keeping separate comes up more than once in Jesus' ministry –*
- *Luke 5:30 But the Pharisees and their experts in the law complained to his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"*
- *There can be just one answer – he wanted to.*





How much do we love him?

- *The woman risked ridicule and even physical removal from Simon's home, but perfect love casts out fear.*
- *How much do we love him and how do we show it?*
- *We show our love with what we have and who we are.*






How much do we love him?

- *There is no set way of showing love to God.*
- *Just as different people express love to their families in different ways, so too different people express love for God differently.*
- *It doesn't matter how ... It does matter that we do.*





How much do we love him?

- *Do not dismiss the connection between faith and love in the story ..*
 - *Apple trees produce apples, dogs bark, and Christians love.*
 - *The woman loved Jesus because she had faith in him – Simon had no faith in Jesus and therefore no love for him.*
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Role reversals

- *What is interesting is that the perceived roles of the woman and Simon were reversed.*
- *Simon was considered the ‘spiritual’ person in the room besides Jesus, and the woman was considered to be far from God.*
- *In fact, the opposite was true.*






Acceptance

- *John 6:37 Everyone whom the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will never send away.*
 - *Her sins were many, but that seems to be an unimportant detail to Jesus.*
 - *Point – Jesus is all about forgiving those who seek Him, why do we want to make it any harder than that?*
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Summary

- *Worship is for sinners.*
 - *Worship takes place at the feet of Jesus.*
 - *Worship is a pre-occupation with Jesus.*
 - *Worship is not concerned about receiving from the Lord, but giving to Him.*
 - *Worship can be without even one word.*
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Questions

