

**FAITH AND LOVE**  
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Luke 7:36-50

1. We recently dealt with this passage in Sunday School, but will visit it again this morning.
2. The main point Jesus makes here is that those who truly understand the magnitude of their sin and the greatness of God's mercy will outwardly and sacrificially manifest love towards God.
3. In verse 47 Jesus clearly stated that the genuineness of this woman's salvation was authenticated by the sacrificial love she demonstrated towards Him.  
NOTE: Jesus was not saying that her actions saved her, rather He was saying that her actions testified to the fact that her sins, which were many, had been forgiven.
4. The sad reality is that the lives of many who profess to be followers of Jesus Christ give little evidence that they are.
  - a. Their lives are characterized by lip service rather than life service.
  - b. Their lives are not characterized by obedience to Christ.
  - c. They are much more excited about and motivated by the things of the world than they are by the things of Christ.
  - d. They do not stand out in the culture as followers of Jesus Christ.
  - e. They do not demonstrate love for God and their brothers and sisters in Christ.
5. Either they are not genuinely converted, or they have yet to fully understand the depth of their sinfulness and depravity.
6. We could call this, "The Tale of Two Persons," one who invited Jesus to participate in his life, and the other who totally surrendered her life.
7. The series of events are clear.
  - a. Jesus was invited by a Jewish Pharisee named Simon to dine with him.
  - b. Jesus, along with Simon and the other dinner guests, reclined around the table.
  - c. At some point, a weeping woman, known to have been a sinner, entered the room uninvited carrying an alabaster vial of perfume.
  - d. She began to:
    - (1) Wet (water with a shower, pour down like rain) Jesus' feet with her tears.
    - (2) Wipe His feet with her hair.
    - (3) Kiss (much, again and again, tenderly) His feet.
    - (4) Anoint His feet with the perfume.
8. Now let's see what we can learn from Simon's response and Jesus' response to what occurred.

**I. Simon's response.**

A. We are not told why Simon, the Pharisee, invited Jesus to dine with him, but his intentions were not noble.

1. He did not extend to Jesus the normal marks of respect and regard.
2. Very possibly he was looking for Jesus to say or do something that he could use against Him.

NOTE: One writer paraphrased verse 39 as, "Ha! I have Him now!"

B. There are many people who are so set in their ways that they are always looking for an excuse to criticize and discredit anyone, including Jesus Christ, who challenges their lifestyle or belief system.

NOTE: Simon concluded that Jesus could not possibly be a prophet.

## II. Jesus' response to Simon.

A. Jesus answered the Pharisee's unspoken accusation by:

1. Telling a parable.
2. Asking Simon a question.

B. The point Jesus was making was that those who understand the magnitude of their sin have a greater sense of gratitude and love when forgiven than those who do not understand the issue of sin.

C. In relationship to sin we can put people in three categories.

1. There are those like Simon who see themselves as righteous, or at least capable of establishing their own righteousness.

- a. Jesus told a similar parable in Luke 18:9-14.

And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: 10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 "The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' 13 "But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' 14 "I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

- b. According to Paul it was a problem that kept most Jews from turning to Jesus.

Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. 2 For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. 3 For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Romans 10:1-4

2. Those who see themselves as sinful, but not as sinners.

3. Those who, through the application of God's Word to their hearts and minds by the Holy Spirit, come to understand that they are sinners to the core of their beings by nature and by choice.

D. The Apostle Paul had been a self-righteous Pharisee until he came to see himself as God viewed him. 1 Tim 1:12-17

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, 13 even though **I was formerly** a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; 14 and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus. 15 **It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.** 16 Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

E. My fear is that many professing Christians have never been fully convicted by the Holy Spirit that they are sinners to the core of their being, and consequently they have never genuinely repented of their sins and, out of their deep sense of need, cast themselves upon the mercy and grace of God by genuinely embracing Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

F. Something is wrong if a professing Christian does not demonstrate his or her love for and devotion towards Christ in measurable and obvious ways.

### III. Jesus' response to the woman.

A. Jesus acknowledged her lavish, unrestrained expression of love and gratitude, which stood in stark contrast to Simon's lack of common courtesy.

1. Many professed followers of Christ are measured in their behavior towards Him, not wanting to appear radical or fanatical in their love for and commitment to Jesus Christ.

2. They may do what is expected of them, from a human perspective, but they do not lay down their life as a living and holy sacrifice. (See Romans 12:1)

B. Jesus pointed out that her actions were the outward expression of her love for Jesus based on the realization that her many sins had been forgiven.

C. Jesus then strengthened her faith by stating to her:

1. "Your sins have been forgiven."

2. "Your faith has saved you."

3. "Go in peace."

### APPLICATION

1. To what degree are our lives examples of adoration, love and gratitude towards the Lord Jesus Christ?

2. Do we understand the enormity of what God has done for us in and through Jesus Christ?

3. Do we have the inward testimony of the Holy Spirit related to our being the children of God?

Romans 8:12-17

So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh —

13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of

God, these are sons of God. 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

16 **The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,** 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.