

Luke 7.36-8.3

Punked at his own Party

New Year's Celebrations – Parties – Dinners – Invited Guests – Festivities

Sometimes Parties do NOT GO OFF like you had PLANNED

Jesus > Special Guest at DINNER PARTY – Some BIG SURPRISES

1. The Party

2. The Punking

3. The Pardon

1. The Party

a. Good Host v.36 Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him

MERIT Received thru HOSTING a RABBI for DINNER > Pastor's TOO!

DINNER Party NOT PRIVATE > Semi-Public // like a BLOCK PARTY

FESTIVE Meals > People RECLINED on Low Couches > LEANING on Left Arm

HEAD Toward Table > BODY Stretching Away from Table > FEET Extended

Don't IMAGINE Woman CRAWLING UNDER a TABLE by Jesus' FEET

aisle Along Walls OPEN for VISITORS to Come / Sit / Listen to Conversation

Jewish BANQUETS were Setting for MORAL INSTRUCTION: Guest TEACHER

Pharisee > RELIGION is about BEING GOOD > God LOVES GOOD People

Religion NOT for People whose LIVES are a MESS – Like this WOMAN

If this were DRAMA > Word PHARISEE crowd goes BOOO & HISS!

Luke's PRESENTATION of Pharisees...NOT Always NEGATIVE

3 X's Tells Story: Saul the PHARISEE becomes Paul the Apostle to the Gentiles

The Third Gospel's presentation of the Pharisees is mixed ...Luke lays the blame for the death of Jesus above all at the feet of priests and others in the Jerusalem leadership associated with the temple (and not the Pharisees). Joel Green

b. Guest v. 36 ...so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.

Jesus ACCEPTING Offer to HOME of Pharisee > NOT SURPRISING

Luke records 3 X's Jesus eats MEAL w/ PHARISEES – STUDENTS of God's Law

For Jesus to eat with tax collectors and sinners and refuse table fellowship with Pharisees would have made him as guilty of reverse prejudice as some of us who discover in our zeal to right wrongs we develop prejudices against the prejudiced.

Fred Craddock

Jesus: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." Luke 19.10

c. Gate Crasher

v. 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

COST of Perfume > Approx ONE YEAR'S Wages

Each of 4 Gospels has ANOINTING Story – Matt/Mark/John > SAME Incident

Point of Matt/Mark/John > GIVING to the POOR

LUKE describing DIFFERENT Occasion – Only Luke tells story of THIS EVENT

POINT of Luke's Story > LOVE and FORGIVENESS

UNNAMED and UNKNOWN Woman > Probably NOT Mary Magdalene

v. 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.

Luke NARRATES with 'Matter of Fact' STYLE > OUTRAGEOUS Party Crasher!

It WAS UNCOMMON for Woman like HER to Show Up & DO What SHE DID

Do NOT Know Woman's Plan > ANOINT his Head? or Feet? > Plan CHANGED

EMOTIONS got BETTER of Her > Started WEEPING for DEEP GRATITUDE

As TEARS fell on Master's Feet > WIPED Off tears with HAIR > KISSED them

John the BAPTIST > Attending to FEET was MENIAL TASK of a SLAVE

Clearly she was completely oblivious of public opinion in the grip of her deep emotions. Leon Morris

PURELY and PASSIONATELY – but NOT EROTICALLY – she LOVED Jesus
Astonishing AFFECTION - KISSING His Feet

2. The Punking

a. Proof Obvious – Simon invited Jesus thinking He MIGHT be a PROPHET

v. 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."

Simon > EMBARRASSED and OFFENDED by ACTIONS of this Woman

“TOUCHING” Jesus’ FEET – Word has SEXUAL OVERTONES
“It is good for a man not to touch a woman.” 1 Corinthians 7.1 KJV

EXACT Sin of Woman NOT MENTIONED > “**woman of city**” PROSTITUTE

Exact SIN NOT Matter > GOSSIP, GLUTTON, or SHOP-LIFTER

LOOSING Hair > Jewish Ladies did Not LET Down their HAIR in PUBLIC

Cultural Equivalent Today > Woman TOOK HER TOP OFF

A man can divorce his wife if she shows her hair to another man. Jewish Talmud

Every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head--it is just as though her head were shaved...For this reason, and because of the angels, the woman ought to have a sign of authority on her head. 1 Corinthians 11.5,10

CORINTH > City with Temple Prostitutes who wore LONG HAIR DOWN

Women of FAITH – had Hair UP > Covering Head May be HER HAIR, Not Cloth

SHOCK and RAGE all FELT about HER Presence > TRANSFERRED to Jesus!

ENDED Simon's CURIOSITY, NOW CERTAIN **'this man NOT a PROPHET!'**

...in the Middle East...The worst sin a woman can commit here is to lose, or appear to have lost, her virginity outside of marriage. The most important asset she has as a woman is her reputation. The whole honor of the family hangs on the reputation of its women...And in some parts of the Arab world, all it takes for a woman to lose her reputation is to be seen speaking to a man who is not her relative...Now consider that same system but take it back 2000 years to a less forgiving time. Then think about Jesus' encounter with the sinful woman. Shocking, isn't it?

Anonymous Woman now Working in Middle East

b. Prophet...Obviously!

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

“Something to tell you” – UH OH!! “SPEAK ON” = POLITE, Not Encouraging!

vs. 41,42 "Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 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?"

DENARII = Day's Wage for Laborer / 500 Denarii = Nearly TWO Years WAGES

Jesus NOT Giving ECONOMICS Lecture > See our GREAT SPIRITUAL DEBT

Focus NOT on AMOUNT of Sin > but on AWARENESS of it in OUR LIVES

Jesus the PROPHET – Knows Simon's THOUGHTS and HE knows this WOMAN

By Simon's OWN CRITERION Jesus is CLEARLY a PROPHET

As PROPHET Jesus SEES into HEARTS > Knows SINCERE Gratitude of Woman

c. Punk'd...Opps! If Simon hoped Party would DISPLAY His Righteousness...

v. 43 Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. > ANSWER is Obvious / Jesus Politely Affirms

v. 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.

SEE this Woman = REALLY UNDERSTAND or Simply ACCUSE Her?

Simon could not see that woman as she then was, for looking at her as she had been.
G. Campbell Morgan

Jesus did NOT See SINNER from CITY > *Woman made PURE by Saving GRACE*

LUKE holds back some CRITICAL INFORMATION to Present it HERE:

vs. 45,46 You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.

SINFUL Woman gave HOSPITALITY that *RIGHTEOUS* Simon Failed to Offer
POOR HOST who Neglected GUESTS > CARDINAL Sin in ANCIENT World

Simon implicates himself in a serious breach of the laws of hospitality whereby he has challenged the honor of his guest, Jesus...this woman fulfills the role expected of Simon, and thus shames Simon as a host
Joel Green

Like EMPEROR with NO CLOTHES > We think PEOPLE See us RIGHTEOUS

MAY fool PEOPLE > God's GAZES onto Our SPIRITUAL NAKEDNESS

Woman GUILTY of Sins of COMMISSION / Simon Guilty of Sin of OMISSION

Simon was RELIGIOUS > But had NO LOVE for JESUS

Simon believed that grace was unavailable to sinners like that woman and unnecessary for a righteous man like himself.
Philip Ryken

What if a contemporary figure like Madonna, a woman with an established reputation as a sinner, came to the Lord, how would we respond if she, in effect, came and sat at the Lord's feet?
Lee Strobel

3. The Pardon

a. Forgiveness

The formal religion of the Pharisees had no real answer to the problem of sin, and could only respond with disapproval and condemnation. Michael Wilcock

UGANDA > Saying about PUBLIC SINNERS *“that one is a GONE CASE!”*

NOT TRUE in God’s Eyes > IF there is LIFE there is HOPE! God is ABLE to Save
Jesus ALONE can DO AWAY w/ SIN: SALVATION & Deep Sense of PEACE

v. 47 For this reason I tell you that her sins, her many sins, must have been forgiven, or she would not have shown such great love. Jerusalem Bible

Jesus does NOT IGNORE or MINIMIZE her SIN > are MANY, but FORGIVEN!

THREE X’s (vs. 47,48,49) > DECLARES Woman is FORGIVEN

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

PUBLIC and AUTHORITATIVE Declaration of FORGIVENESS

v. 49 The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

NOT Just a Prophet > He is GOD – ONLY God can FORGIVE Sins!

Jesus FRIEND of Sinners: Roman Centurion, Widow in Nain > Great MIRACLES

Roman Centurion > HEALED Servant of Military OFFICER

Widow in Nain > RESUSCITATED Only Son of Widow

Woman > GREATEST Miracle > Meets Greatest NEED > COST Greatest PRICE

Heal Servant > Never Even Went / Raise Dead Young Man > SPOKE to Corpse

FORGIVE Woman > POUR OUT His LIFE Blood on the CROSS

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us Ephesians 1.7,8

b. Faith LOVE is not CAUSE of Forgiveness but the CONFIRMATION

NOT Known if she PREVIOUSLY Met Jesus > HEARD Him Preach?
BELIEVED!

This DEVOTION is DISPLAY of DEEP and SINCERE FAITH she **Already Has**
FIRST comes FORGIVENESS by GRACE / THEN comes Grateful RESPONSE

"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more."
Isaiah 43.25

Simon INNOCENT of Sexual MISCONDUCT / but was EMPTY of LOVE

DIFFERENCE between THEM NOT SIZE of DEBT > but **Only 1 FORGIVEN**

There is nowhere a more wretched and miserable sinner than I. Francis of Assisi

v. 50 Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you...."

FAITH is Important THEME in Luke > Even in this Chapter 7

Jesus about Centurion: "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel."
Luke 7.9

Jesus to John the Baptist: "Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."
Luke 7.29

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. Galatians 5.6

c. Feelings – Who do you most IDENTIFY with in this Story?...

Simon had an arctic heart, a permafrost of the soul... Kent Hughes

Much of the time I HONESTLY have a Heart like SIMON

I am far too SELF-CONSCIOUS to Let my LOVE FOR JESUS 'Hang OUT'

LIKE Woman – Lost all sense of SHAME or POUR’S her HEART w/ PERFUME
 Small SOLACE > Not EVERY Believer in Luke Loves w/ such Radical Abandon
 But HER EXAMPLE is Commended and REMEMBERED by the Lord

OTHER Anointing Story > “I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

Matthew 26.13

Simon	Woman
High Social Position	Outcast
Host	Uninvited Guest
Angry	Overcome with Joy
Evaluating Jesus	Adoring Jesus
Concealed his Sin (<i>so he thought!</i>)	Revealed as a Sinner
His God loves the Good	Her God has Grace for Sinners

So much forgiven, so little, little love. So many mercies, so few returns. Such great privileges, and a life sadly below them.

John Newton

written a few weeks before composing the hymn ‘Amazing Grace’

ANSWER – We to ENHANCE Feelings > NOT Sin More to be MORE Grateful!

Understand ENORMITY of Sin we ALL ALREADY Have > Nailed Jesus to Cross
 20+ years AFTER Conversion > Paul never FORGOT How Much He Needs Jesus

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 1.15-17

THEOLOGY leads to DOXOLOGY // Understanding GRACE > Gratefulness

Jesus desires the affection of our hearts as well as the faith of our minds...Fall into the arms of his love, bow at his feet in worship, and weep for joy that all your sins are forgiven.

Philip Ryken

WHEN we FORGET we're LIKE HER at Jesus' Feet > Forget how to Bring Others
 My Feeling-O-Meter is HIGHEST Levels when I practice DISCIPLINES of Faith
 CONSISTENT – In Worship, Word, Prayer, Fellowship, Accountability
 BICF – Challenge to READ Bible in 2010 / 40 Days of Fasting & Prayer Begins

d. Following

v. 50 Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; *go in peace.*"

LIT. "Go INTO Peace" // Rabbi 'go in peace' to DEAD / Go INTO Peace – Living

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means. Luke 8.1-3

CONTINUOUS, WANDERING Preaching Ministry – Not one Point to Another
 FOCUS on OPEN Air, PUBLIC Ministry > **TWELVE** – first Mention of 12
 WOMEN RESCUED from DEMONS & DISEASES (Dr. Luke makes Distinction!)
 Mary Magdalene > Christian MOVIE STAR = Beautiful, Saved from Immorality
 No Biblical Basis for Imagination: DEMONS are NOT Moral, eg. Lust, Perversion
 RESCUED from Very DISTRESSING EXISTENCE > Mental or Physical Disorder
 Luke more than any of 4 Evangelists > Tells how Jesus has Good News for Women

LUKE – See Male Example (Centurion) THEN FEMALE Example (Widow)

Zech & Elizabeth / Simeon & Anna / Mary & Joseph / Priscilla & Aquila

No woman is mentioned as speaking against our Lord in His life, or having a share in His death. On the contrary, He was anointed by a woman for his burial; women were the last at the grave and the first at the resurrection; to a woman he first appeared when He rose again – women ministered to His wants – women bewailed and lamented Him; a heathen woman interceded for His life with her husband, Pilate – and above all, of a woman He was born. John William Burgon

Jesus does MORE than FORGIVE Women's Sin > **DISCIPLES and SENDS**

Pattern > GRACE RECEIVED then MINISTRY PURSUED – 2 LEVELS

1) Personal INVOLVEMENT and 2) CONTRIBUTION of RESOURCES

Part of their MINISTRY is to MINISTER to those Who MINISTER

For these women to travel with the group would have been viewed as scandalous. Adult coeducation was unheard of. Craig Keener

RABBI's Refused to TEACH Women > Thought Women held INFERIOR Place

It would be better for the words of the Law to be burned than that they should be entrusted to a woman. Jewish Talmud

In the midst of the debate about the role of women (in church ministry), we should never lose sight of one thing, that we are all called to serve the Lord by serving one another...the current discussion has centered on power, fueled more by cultural standards than biblical standards of service. Darrell Bock

GO and Demonstrate JESUS LOVE in World > KINDNESS and COMPASSION

NOT Open a SEEKER FRIENDLY SYNAGOGUE – Change Jewish Worship

Of Course God-Fearing Gentiles WELCOME to Synagogue – UNDERSTOOD

But Jesus calls us to FOLLOW Him in WORLD – Among People of WORLD

TODAY – Make Churches PALATABLE to World – Think Duty ends in 1 Hour

"I wasn't God's first choice for what I've done for China...I don't know who it was...It must have been a man...a well-educated man. I don't know what happened. Perhaps he died. Perhaps he wasn't willing...and God looked down...and saw Gladys Aylward...And God said - "Well, she's willing." Gladys Aylward

e. Family Church needs to Model Purity and Power of Jesus' Love to World

Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.
1 Timothy 5.1,2

Woman RISKED All to Come and LOVE Jesus with RADICAL ABANDON

TRUSTED she would be RECEIVED – NOT Rejected, Scorned, Accused

The only place she is welcome is the street, among people like herself. What she needs is a community of forgiven and forgiving sinners. The story screams the need for a church, not just any church but one that says, '*You are welcome here.*'

Fred Craddock

The CARE Jesus Showed to Women – and Men – should be WAY we CARE

Life of LOVE > GRATEFUL Response of Sinner FORGIVEN by Jesus Christ

Jewish Culture - NO "SINGLE" WOMEN - under Father or Husband

We have to do something for the women. The refugee women are being driven to prostitution to feed their children. It is our shame. It is the fruit of Muhammad; Islam shows no mercy to a woman once she is soiled. There is no salvation for her.

Kurdish Member of Iraqi Parliament

"Men have authority over women because Allah made the one superior to the other...As for those from whom you fear disobedience, admonish them and send them to beds apart and beat them"
Quran, Sura 4 "Women"

One way MEASURE Our GRASP of God's GRACE > RESPONSE to Sinners

Some 'Christians' NEVER Touch Sinners / NEVER let SINNERS Touch Them

How do WE RELATE to -

Girl at SCHOOL > REPUTATION for SLEEPING AROUND

HOMELESS Man > with SUBSTANCE ABUSE Addiction

Openly GAY Couple > Living in APARTMENT in our BUILDING

PRISON Inmate > GUILTY of Committing VIOLENT CRIMES

PASTOR > Boldly DENIES Doctrines of HISTORIC CHRISTIANITY

Jesus had RELATIONSHIPS w/ OBVIOUS SINNERS > Never SHUNNED Them

This LOVE could CHANGE Not Only SINNERS – But US, and our CHURCH too!

It is the Lord of the universe who calls you--women and men--and offers you today a place in his program. Your education or lack of it, your tastes and prejudices and fears and ambitions, your age or sex or color or height or marital status or income bracket are all things which may be offered to God, after you've presented your bodies as a living sacrifice. And God knows exactly what to do with them. They're not obstacles if you hand them over. Be still and know that he is God. Sit in silence and wonder and expectancy...

Elisabeth Elliot

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."

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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."

Luke 8

1. After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, 2. and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; 3. Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

