

Luke 7.36-50

Surprises at the Party!

As we NEAR the HOLIDAY Season – We will Soon be having PARTIES

Sometimes Parties do NOT GO OFF like you had PLANNED

Jesus > Special Guest at DINNER PARTY – Some BIG SURPRISES

1. Party Scheduled 2. Providential Surprises 3. Pardon for Sinners

1. Party Scheduled

a. Good Host

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

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

FESTIVE Meals > People RECLINED on Low Couches > LEAN 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

Pharisee Received MERIT thru HOSTING a RABBI for DINNER

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

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

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

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

Jesus ACCEPTED Offer to HOME of Pharisee > NOT SURPRISING

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

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

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

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

COST of Perfume > Approx ONE YEAR'S Wages

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.

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

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 & PASSIONATELY – but NOT EROTICALLY – she LOVED Jesus

Astonishing AFFECTION - KISSING His Feet

2. Providential Surprises

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

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

ENDED Simon’s CURIOSITY, NOW Certain **‘this man NOT a PROPHET!’**

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 2 Years WAGES

Jesus NOT Giving ECONOMICS Lecture > Sees GREAT SPIRITUAL DEBT

Jesus IS a PROPHET – Knows THOUGHTS of Simon AND this WOMAN

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

By Simon’s OWN CRITERION Jesus is CLEARLY a PROPHET

PROPHET Jesus SEES into HEARTS > Knows SINCERE Gratitude of Woman

c. Polite Affirmation

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 Simon

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 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

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 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

3. Pardon for Sinners

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 is LIFE there is HOPE! God 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 NOT IGNORE or MINIMIZE her SIN > Are MANY, but FORGIVEN!

3 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

To FORGIVE Woman > Must 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!
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...."

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

c. 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

Luke more than any of 4 Evangelists > 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 GO & Demonstrate JESUS LOVE in World > KINDNESS & COMPASSION**

"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

d. 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'

Woman – Lost all sense of SHAME or POUR'S her HEART w/ PERFUME

Small SOLACE > Not All Believers 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

May the Lord ENLARGE our HEARTS with More Gratitude or Praise!
 WHEN we're Not LIKE HER at Jesus' Feet > Forget how to Bring Others
 CONSISTENT – In Worship, Word, Prayer, Fellowship, Accountability

20+ yrs 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 // TRUE Study of WORD leads WORSHIP

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

Luke 7.³⁶Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷When 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, ³⁸and 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. ³⁹When 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." ⁴⁰Jesus 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. ⁴²Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. ⁴⁴Then 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. ⁴⁵You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." ⁴⁸Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."