

**Forgiven  
Much  
Love Much**

1-27-19

**In Mideast ancient Culture when anyone asked a guest over for dinner, a gracious host would extend certain courtesies:**

- 1) Since everyone wore sandals, the host would provide water for the guest to wash their feet.**
- 2) The host typically would offer a kiss of welcome, which is still practiced in many countries.**
- 3) The host would also offer oil to comb their hair.**
- 4) Then being thus prepared, everyone would recline at the table on one elbow on a cushion with feet behind then and to the side.**
- 5) As a note this is how the “Lord’s Supper” was eaten just before Jesus was crucified.**

**With this culture in mind we can better understand this account of Jesus. Here we see the essence of Jesus’ ministry. As we read this, let us pay special attention to the dynamics Jesus’ ministry especially people’s personal attitudes and emotions concerning HIS ministry.**

Luke 7:36–50 (ESV)

<sup>36</sup> One of the Pharisees **(the religious leadership)** asked Jesus to eat with him, and Jesus went into the Pharisee’s house and reclined at table. <sup>37</sup> And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner **(prostitute)**, when she learned that Jesus was reclining at table in the Pharisee’s house, she brought an alabaster flask of ointment, <sup>38</sup> and standing behind him at his feet, **weeping**, she began to wet his feet with her tears and

wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. **(She heard Jesus' message of God's love, which kindles within her a Heart, felt devotion toward Jesus.)** <sup>39</sup> Now when the Pharisee **(the religious)** who had invited Jesus saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." **(The Pharisee determined that Jesus is a fake because HE did not recognize that this woman is a prostitute.)** <sup>40</sup> **And Jesus answering** **(The Pharisee didn't say anything, he just thought it and Jesus answered the Pharisee according to his thoughts.)** said to him, "**Simon, I have something to say to you.**" And he answered, "Say it, Teacher. **(Now Jesus tells a story.)**

<sup>41</sup> "**A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.** <sup>42</sup> **When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?"** <sup>43</sup> Simon answered, "The one, **I suppose**, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." **(I suppose!! This is a dismissive comment when tolerating someone that you really don't care for.)** And Jesus said to him, "**You have judged rightly.**" **(Fascinating, Jesus got the Pharisee to commit to a truth before continuing HIS teaching.)** <sup>44a</sup> **Then turning toward the woman Jesus said to Simon,** **(By turning to the woman, she has Jesus' full attention while at the same time the Pharisee is not receiving any attention and causing the Pharisee to focus on the woman he despises.)**

**(The Pharisee's hard heart is going to be exposed!)**  
**44b "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. (Now the hammer is dropped!) 47 Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." (The Pharisees heart and the woman's heart have been exposed. Jesus pronounces God's displeasure with the Pharisee and God's acceptance of the woman.) (After calling into contrast the Pharisee and the woman, Jesus makes a profound statement!) 48 And Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." (Now Jesus declares the source of the woman's relationship with God and also the source of our personal relationship with God.) 50 And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." (Faith – She heard God and she believed God!)**

**What we have here is a fundamental principle of the Christian faith.**

Luke 7:47 (ESV)

Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.

The point is not that those who have sinned more than others are loved more by God. **The point is that we love God according to the same degree that we understand God's forgiveness; HIS love for us!** If we are overwhelmed by God's forgiveness, we will love God abundantly. If we just think it is decent that God forgave us and it is a nice add on to our life, our love for God will tend to be lukewarm. In the OT, **Rehab and Ruth** were women who were forgiven much and loved much. Both these non-Jewish women turned from pagan religions to serve the only true God. Not only that but both these women in Matt.1:5 are include in the lineage of King David and therefore included in the human lineage of Christ. **King David himself was Forgiven Much and Loved Much! When he was confronted with his sin, he recognized that he sinned against God.**

Psalm 51:4 (ESV)

Against you, you only, have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight.

**Seeing his sin was against God, David was broken hearted and recognized the magnitude of God's forgiveness.**

Psalm 51:17 (ESV)

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**David seeing he was Forgiven Much he Loved Much!  
Therefore God recognized David as a man after  
God's own heart.**

Acts 13:22 (ESV)

God raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, "I have found in David the son of Jesse **a man after my heart**, who will do all my will."

**The real question for us; do we recognize that we were forgiven much. When we recognize we were forgiven much we will love much! We first must recognize that God has forgiven us and cleanse us from everything held against us.**

1 John 1:9 (ESV)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**The more one grasps the extent of God's forgiveness the greater the extent they will love God who forgives them and accepts them.**

1 John 4:19 (ESV)

We love because he first loved us.

**This is what happened to the woman weeping at Jesus' feet wiping the tears off with her hair. She loved because Jesus first loved her!**

**We always close our messages with the good news because we are Forgiven Much therefore we Love Much!**

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**If we grasp the message of God's love and forgiveness like the woman set at Jesus' feet, HE says to us:**

Luke 7:50 (ESV)

"Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

**I say to you this morning believe God and go in peace!**

**Prophetic Team**

***Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.***