

Much Forgiveness, Much Love
(Lk 7:36-50)

1. The Setting

A. Context: John has inquired of Jesus: “Are you the Coming One ...?” (v 20).

1. Jesus speaks of self-righteous Pharisees who rejected John’s baptism - v 30.
2. Jesus responds to the Pharisees’ slur against Him - v 34.
3. In Mt’s parallel account, Jesus offers the “great invitation” (Mt 11:28-30).

B. Luke alone includes this story which illustrates the above principles.

2. The Lessons

A. Some people associate with Jesus for ulterior, insincere reasons.

1. Simon was only casually interested in Jesus. He did not invite Jesus into his home out of spiritual gratitude, he did not consider Him to be a prophet (v 39), and he did not extend to Him even the common courtesies of the day.
2. The woman, on the other hand, was effusive in her adoration for Jesus. She came in uninvited and humbly embraced His feet.
3. Application: Some people **act** interested in Jesus but really aren’t motivated by deep spiritual need. They may pray at meals, attend services, read Bible, and enjoy the company of good people but aren’t devoted.

B. Genuine grief for sin will not hesitate to express itself.

1. The woman was not embarrassed to weep, not too proud to do the work of a servant (wash feet) and not stingy, anointing His feet with expensive perfume.
2. Simon, however, seemed embarrassed to offer basic hospitality to Jesus, maybe afraid to be too closely associated with Him. He withheld water, she used tears; he withheld a kiss, she kissed His feet; he did not anoint Jesus with common oil but she rubbed His feet with expensive, perfumed oil.
3. Application: Some people are hesitant to be baptized in front of others; they carefully measure their response to as to retain their dignity. But when we realize that our sins make us God’s **enemy** and forgiveness makes us His **friend**, then we will gladly render uninhibited obedience.

C. Our love for God is in direct proportion to our gratitude for forgiveness.

1. Love for God is not fostered in “seeing” Him but in knowing the depth of forgiveness.
2. Illus: We “love” those who helped support us in London, some we never met.
3. This love and devotion will drive us on to spiritual development. He who fails to grow is “shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was purged from his old sins” (II Pe 1:8-9).

D. Pride leads to misjudgment.

1. Simon misjudged himself - He did not see his own need for forgiveness. Jesus used a parable to get him to commit to the truth that applied to him.
2. Simon misjudged Jesus - He proved Himself to be the Prophet by working miracles and forgiving sins.
3. Simon misjudged the woman - He saw her as unworthy of forgiveness. He only saw her **sin**, not her **penitence**.

Conclusion: The invitation is extended to all who feel the burden of sin and are ready to unload it. The burdens which Jesus places upon us are lighter than burden of sin.