



Luke 7:36-50 (NRSV, NLT)

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. ³⁷ And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an *alabaster jar* of ointment. ³⁸ She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." ⁴¹ "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷ I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love. ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Fringe

- Peripheral, marginal, secondary. Extreme in relation to something else.
- Jesus was concerned with those on the fringe not because he loved them more, but because society loved them less.
- Nobodies are somebodies in the eyes of God.
- Luke had an affinity for those on the fringe.

Prostitutes

Verse 37 *And a woman in the city, who was a sinner...*

- Marginalized. Hated just like tax collectors.
 - Women allowed to be unmarried virgins or married.
- Prostitution outside of normal social order.
- Economic component; independent financially.
- Some ambivalence toward profession.
- Jesus praised the woman who washed his feet.

- Rahab and TAMAR are listed in the genealogy of Jesus.

Setting

Verse 36 Pharisee asks Jesus to eat with him.

- Dinner party; visible to anyone passing by outside.
- Triclinium: U-shaped table.
- Pharisees were respected; not priests, but sought to be holy by following the law.
- Party crashed by the prostitute.
- The prostitute breaks all of the social norms.
- Jesus' response shocks Pharisees.

Pharisees

Verse 39 *When the Pharisee who invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him- that she is a sinner."*

- Pharisees risk letting _____ overrun _____.
- Jesus demonstrates that _____ is always more important than laws or rules.
- Pharisees risk becoming _____.

Parable

Verses 41-43 *A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed 500 denarii, and the other fifty...*

- Which one will love the creditor more?
- "There are certain realities in life that we can only see through eyes that have been cleansed with our tears." – Pope Francis
- What is the response to the forgiveness of debt?

Person

Verse 44 *Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman?"*

- Ask God for eyes to see the person and not the circumstance.

Forgiveness

Verse 47 *I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.*

- God's remedy is grace, not guilt.