

**Embracing Forgiveness,  
Receiving Peace  
Luke 7:36-50**

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<sup>36</sup> One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table.

<sup>37</sup> And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, 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. <sup>39</sup> Now when the Pharisee who had invited him 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." <sup>40</sup> And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."

<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." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." <sup>44</sup> 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 wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. <sup>45</sup> You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. <sup>46</sup> You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. <sup>47</sup> Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." <sup>48</sup> And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." <sup>49</sup> Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" <sup>50</sup> And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." Luke 7:36-50

## 1. The Pharisee

According to Josephus, the Pharisees were the group most influential with the people, were noted for their accurate and therefore authoritative interpretations of Jewish law, and had their own traditions and way of life to which they were faithful. The majority of the earliest traditions focus on purity laws; particularly washing, eating, tithing and festival Sabbath observance. They were noted for their self-righteousness and their pride (Matt. 9:11; Luke 7:39; 18:11, 12). They were frequently rebuked by our Lord (Matt. 12:39; 16:1-4).

## 2. The Dinner

Why would this Pharisee invite Jesus to dinner?

- 1) It could be an occasion to \_\_\_\_\_ him.
- 2) P\_\_\_\_\_. Jesus is a celebrity.
- 3) Verify if Jesus really is a P\_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) C\_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Maybe he wanted h\_\_\_\_\_ from Jesus.

### 3. The Customs

#### 1) Reclining while eating.

The guest would recline on their left side, possibly with their left arm on the table, their shoes are removed before the meal and reclined with their feet outward.

#### 2) Strangers allowed in the house to observe the meal and conversation.

Her presence was not unusual for when a Rabbi was invited to someone's house others could stop by and listen to the conversation. (Bible Knowledge Commentary)

#### 3) Foot Washing.

It was the custom of the day when one had a dinner party to provide for the guests' feet to be cleaned before the meal. Because most roads were unpaved and the normal foot attire was sandals, it was common for people's feet to be dusty or muddy. (BKC)

#### 4) Greeting by a kiss

In those days, the standard greeting was a kiss on the cheek - especially signifying a hearty and warm welcome to a friend or person of importance.

#### 5) Anointing the head with oil

Oil for one's skin in a dry climate was considered thoughtful (International Bible Commentary).

### 4. The Woman

- 1) Well known in the city.
- 2) Most likely a prostitute.
- 3) Probably a Gentile.
- 4) She had already encountered Jesus.

### 5. The Point

#### 1) Expectations

- a. False expectations will hinder, harm and even destroy our relationship with God.

Q. How are you approaching God?

Q. What expectations have you created that are hindering your relationship with Him?

- b. Compare the expectations of the Centurion vs. the Jews.

- c. John the Baptist.

- d. Expectations of a prostitute and a Centurion.

-They approach God humbly.

-They don't demand.

-They recognize the power and authority of God, but don't presume to tell him how to use it.

-The Centurion and the prostitute understand clearly they are undeserving. The prostitute understands that she is forgiven.

Thus, they are very grateful. Jesus grants both their hearts desires. One was for healing for a servant, the other was forgiveness and salvation.

#### 2) Embrace Forgiveness and Receive Peace.

Heb. 4:16 "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (NIV)

God loves you and stands ready to forgive you (1 John 1:9).

What is He prompting you to confess?

Are you ready to embrace forgiveness and "go in peace"?

Today is the day.

Scripture passages from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.

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