

Loved

Feb. 21, 2021

Luke 7: 40-50

In the book titled *Love is Something You Do* by John Bisagno, the premise is that love is not something you think or feel; love is something you do. It's an action that demonstrates what you think and feel.

In today's passage, there were two people that were Jesus' focus. Simon the Pharisee was very knowledgeable of the Jewish scriptures, highly respected, and the host of the dinner party.

The other had a very questionable reputation, she was a sinner, an immoral woman, and most likely, a prostitute. The sinful woman didn't want to just *say* she loved Jesus. She didn't want to just *think* about loving Jesus or *feeling* some loving *feelings* toward Jesus. No, as verse 47 says, she wanted to *show* her *great love* for Jesus. For her, love for Jesus was something you *do*.

Jesus saw and loved both His host and the woman with a questionable reputation. But He also saw the heart of them both. Simon the Pharisee had questionable motives, but the sinful woman realized who Jesus was and that she loved Him.

The Greek word 'agape' is used to describe God's love and the kind of love we as Christians are to emulate. This is a godly, selfless, sacrificial, unconditional kind of love. Interestingly, it is the most common word for love found in the New Testament. [excerpts from Jim Lemons and Russ Wilkins]

Love's Intensity (Luke 7: 36-39, 40-43)

- While the Pharisees continued to accost Jesus at almost every turn, Jesus never lost His compassion and love for all people. Here we find Jesus ministering to Simon the Pharisee who had invited Him to a dinner party. Simon was likely affluent and well known in the community.
- Suddenly an uninvited woman appears behind Jesus. Her sinful behavior was commonly known (perhaps prostitution). Weeping, she begins to wash Jesus' feet and anoint them with perfume.
- *What would you do if you were Simon, the host? What would Jesus do?*
 - Although not spoken aloud, Simon likely thought this proved Jesus was not a prophet. A prophet would know she is a sinful woman and would not allow her to touch Him.
 - Jesus, knowing Simon's thoughts, used this as a teaching moment about God's Kingdom.
- **"Simon, I have something to say to you"** – Jesus spoke to Simon calmly.
- It was common for people to borrow money. Sometimes from family, friends or creditors.
 - If two people have debt, one 500 denarri and the other 50 denarri, and the debt is forgiven, which one will love the creditor more? (denarri = 1 day's wages)
 - Simon said **"I suppose, the one he forgave most"**
 - Jesus said **"you have rightly judged"**
- You can be sure, all those present were listening intently.
 - **What is the cost of forgiving others?**
 - **What is the cost of God's forgiveness of sins?**



Love Demonstrated (Luke 7:44-47)

- Jesus asked Simon **“See thou this woman”**.
 - Clearly Simon saw the woman. You couldn’t help but see the woman.
 - Jesus wanted Simon to see her in light of her loving actions.
- Jesus contrasted the woman’s expression of love and caring with those that were not offered by His host, Simon.

The Woman:	Simon:
1. Knew the guilt of her sin.	1. Did not understand the guilt of his sin.
2. Was broken before Jesus.	2. Was self-righteous before Jesus.
3. Had her eyes on Jesus.	3. Had his eyes on the woman.
4. Was brought to tears by the grace of Jesus.	4. Was offended that Jesus let her touch him.
5. Her faith saved her.	5. His lack of faith condemned him.



At Her Master's Feet by Del Parson

- It was common for the host to offer water to wash the visitor’s feet.
 - Simon did not offer water, but the woman used her tears and hair to wash Jesus feet.
 - Simon never offered a greeting kiss, but the woman kissed Jesus feet.
 - Simon never offered oil to anoint Jesus head, but the woman anointed his feet with perfume.
- The woman’s intense love was on display for all to see.
- She did not just think of love as an emotion, she put her love into extravagant actions.
- **Do you let preconceived ideas about people keep you from truly seeing them?**
- **Are there people so sinful that God cannot save them? Have you ever wished these people would not be saved?** God can remove evil from people. Think about how God used Saul/Paul.

Love And Faith (Luke 7:48-50)

- Jesus and the woman may have previously met and He forgave her sins. Her gratitude, and escape from the weight of her notorious past, led her to express love towards Jesus.
 - Jesus parable had rightly shown those who are forgiven much, show much love.
- Jesus followed his conversation with Simon by explaining that the woman’s sins are forgiven.
 - Simon had kept his thoughts to himself concerning Jesus.
 - Not so the others at the dinner party. They began to mumble outload, **“Who is this that forgiveth sins?”** They challenged Jesus right to forgive sins.
- Jesus was not deterred or distracted. Remember he asked Simon if he saw the woman? Jesus saw this woman. He knew her past but more importantly he knew in the present she was restored to right relationship with God, and Jesus even knew her future good.
- **“Thy faith hath saved thee”** -Since the woman had no physical ailment, all present knew that Jesus was speaking about being saved spiritually.
 - Saving faith includes both belief in Jesus and commitment to follow Him.
 - She didn’t need to say anything. Her actions testified to her belief in Jesus.
- **“Go in peace”** – The barrier of sin had been removed. Now she could walk in peace with God!
- **Will you help others reject works-based religion and place their faith in Christ alone?**
- **How can you help others find peace this week?**

Biblical Truth:

Jesus saves all who come to Him in faith.

“So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.” Gal. 4:7

