



buzz

The Sinful Woman Who Anointed Jesus' Feet

Based on Luke 7:37-50

By James Christophel

Jesus had just finished speaking to a group of people about the Kingdom of God. He described it as a kingdom not of this world, but a heavenly kingdom. He called it a place where God's chosen people would dwell. A place chosen for them. He told the people that God is a loving God who sent His only son into the world that whosoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life.

After his sermon, Jesus noticed a woman who had been standing near the edge of the crowd. There was no one who talked to her. It seemed that people shrank from her. Jesus saw tears in her eyes. He spoke to her, "Woman, I noticed tears in your eyes. Did I say something to bring the tears or is there another matter that bothers you?" Jesus already knew her heart and that she was a prostitute.

"Oh, no sir, you did not offend me. It's just that you don't know me. God would never love me--you see, people call me a sinful woman. God could never love me or forgive me."

Jesus answered her, "Who told you that? I know God didn't tell you that, who did?" Jesus looked at her kindly.

She replied, "It is the men who come to me. Many of them are very righteous men. They tell me I am a sinful woman and that God does not love me. Then they take advantage of me. I know that God can never forgive me." She hid her face to hide more tears.

Jesus looked at her with compassion in His eyes and spoke, "These righteous men that you say take advantage of you, I saw some of them praying in the temple. I heard one say, 'I give my tithes and worship regularly in the temple. I am not like the tax collectors, sinners and that evil woman in the corner.' I saw you praying, 'Lord be merciful to me a sinner.' God heard your prayer. It was your prayer that God accepted and not the ranting of the righteous one bragging to God."



Then the woman quickly answered, "I cannot believe that God heard my cry. I cannot even call it a prayer and besides how would you know if God heard my cry? Are you a prophet who thinks he knows the mind of God?"

Jesus answered her, "I speak with authority. I came from the Father. The Father and I are one. I know that your prayer was heard. If you believe in me, your sins are forgiven and you will have everlasting life."

"Oh thank you sir. I don't know how I can every repay you."

Jesus answered her, "Your sins are forgiven. Go and sin no more." With those words He gave her a smile and walked away.

It was a few days later that she saw Jesus reclining at dinner in the house of Simon the Pharisee. She was overwhelmed with love and went to Jesus and started to kiss his feet. She began weeping and tears fell on his feet. She reached in her cloak for a cloth to wipe the tears but found none. Then she started to wipe his feet with her hair. She had an alabaster jar of perfume which she poured on Jesus' feet.

Simon the Pharisee said to himself, "If this man was a prophet, he would know what kind of a sinful woman this is." He was thinking that Jesus would not let such a sinful woman touch him.

Jesus knew what Simon was thinking. He turned to Simon and said, "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. You gave me no kiss and she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she anointed my feet with ointment. I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven." Then Jesus spoke to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven."

Some persons in the crowd began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" They did not believe Jesus could do this.

Jesus said to the woman. "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."



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I am Middle Class

You probably think that I am nothing special since I am a member of the middle class. Being in the middle class has its rewards. In the middle means I can hob nob with those who think they are in another class. I can float around and get to know a lot of people. So this summer I am going to test out the idea with my SS class here at church. The class, formerly known as the college class, is going to become the middle class. During the summer they will float around and visit as many Sunday school classes as possible. There will be no big announcement. They will just show up. The goal is to learn more about our congregation by visiting other classes. Will we be welcomed by all classes? Will we experience the wisdom shared by people we do not know? Will we create a bond of friendship by listening, sharing, and learning more about how God is working in your lives? I hope so, and I am looking forward to the summer as I live in the middle class.

—JD Smucker and the College Class (grads: Ashley, Evette, JD and Beth, and others)

Prayer time for Ross Richer family

All are invited to attend a community prayer time at 5:00 today as we remember Jerrell, Jane, Sierra, Teresa, Naomi, and Jordan Ross Richer and their ministries in Tena, Ecuador. Prayer is the foundation of all of God's work. Come and join us as we lift them to God's throne.

Mennonite Women

Thursday, May 12 at 8:30 a.m. Mennonite Women (sewing) meets at WMC. All women are welcome to help quilt, tie comforters, knit or crochet prayer shawls. Come join us for fellowship and a noon potluck meal.

Rental housing needed

Wayne and Ruthie Saunders are looking for a rental home in the Goshen or Middlebury area. If you have one, or know of one available please let them know at rwsnascar@gmail.com or 875-4358.

New AV scheduler and volunteer opportunities

An important part of helping our worship services to flow smoothly and be available to those who cannot be physically among us on Sunday mornings is operating the Audio-Visual booth every service. While some of these folks who currently fill this function are techno-whizzes, others are just fast-learners who have decided to learn something new (it's good for the brain!). We are very grateful for their willingness to use their gifts in this way.

But, since no one is able to, or even wants to, spend every service of every Sunday in there, it would be nice to have a few more people to learn to take on these tasks. Those who already work the booth are willing and eager to train new people. If you are someone who likes to work behind the scenes, this is one way to contribute to a worship service without having to get up front. In fact, in this position, one is required to sit in the very back!

We are very happy to announce that Denise Diener has agreed to take over the scheduling of the sound booth for our Sunday morning worship services. If you have any interest in learning what all running the sound board, the video camera, power point or lights entails, please contact Denise and she will set you up with someone to train you.

New changes of address

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