

Session 6 - The woman who washed Jesus' feet

Luke 7:36-50

Intro

In our previous weeks, we looked at some women in the Bible, their stories, how broken they were but also how God worked in their life and restored them. We have looked at Tamar who was mistreated by her husbands and his family, Rahab who was a prostitute, Ruth who was in an unknown land with nothing, Bathsheba who had a complicated story and suffered great pain and loss and Mary who became pregnant as an unmarried teenager. However, each of these women have a faith in God and a trust that God is faithful too, and we saw this faithfulness in how He restored each of their lives.

Part 1

Today we are going to look at women in the New Testament, the second half of the Bible, so Jesus is around now, and we are starting with a woman mentioned in the book of Luke.

³⁶ When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷ A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. ³⁸ As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

Luke 7:36-39

So, Jesus has gone to a Pharisee's house, that was a religious leader at the time, and they had a lot of power and status. The Bible isn't clear what was going on in this woman's life. It just says she was living a sinful life, which means she is doing wrong things against God, and they all clearly knew about it. Perfume in those days was very expensive and so was alabaster, so this was a very grand gesture.

Discussion Questions

- ▶ What do you think of what the woman did?
- ▶ What do you think of the Pharisees' (religious leader's) reaction?
- ▶ How do you think the woman will have felt?
- ▶ Have you ever felt judged or been in a situation where you feel like everyone is judging you?

Craft Time

Part 2

Let's have a look at the next part of the story.

⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," he said.

⁴¹ "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii,^[a] and the other fifty. ⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

⁴³ Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

Luke 7:40-48

Discussion Questions

- ▶ **What do you think of the story Jesus told?**
- ▶ **Is there anything you think is too great of a debt/burden for you to come to Jesus?** *(Could mention forgiveness and that Jesus came for the sick)*
- ▶ **How do you think the woman felt?**
- ▶ **What thoughts would each individual have after hearing Jesus' story?**

Part 3

Let's read on a bit more.

⁴⁹ The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Luke 7:49-50

Discussion Questions

- ▶ **What do you think about the way Jesus treated the woman?**
(Can talk about how Jesus treats her with respect, unlike the Pharisees. 'Come for the sick' type message, what Jesus came to do. He shares who he is as he defends her. His love for her despite her sin reveals who he is and who the Pharisees are. He recognises her faith and sees through what she looks like and what she has done.)
- ▶ **What do you think about what he says to her?**
(Can talk about how he said her faith has saved you, the meaning of this and forgiveness of sins).

Can do If there is time and the group want to do more, otherwise go to summary:



Part 4 - Widow of Nain

Luke 7:11-17

¹¹ Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. ¹² As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. ¹³ When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”

¹⁴ Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” ¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

¹⁶ They were all filled with awe and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said. “God has come to help his people.” ¹⁷ This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

Luke 7:11-17

Discussion Questions

- ▶ What are your first thoughts on the passage?
- ▶ What did Jesus do? How did he react?
- ▶ How do you think the widow felt?
- ▶ The widow says ‘a great prophet has appeared among us’, what do you think she means?

Craft Time

Summary

As we see through these women’s stories, Jesus was born to Mary, and came for the sick. He came for those who are struggling and don’t have it all together. He has compassion and He understands.

Jesus wants you to come as you are, with all your burdens and debts, because this is what He came for – to free us from our burdens so we can live with him forever.

If you have any questions about that, please ask.

