



Jesus is Anointed/Forgiveness

12th Confirmation Class Handout

Luke 7:36 - 50

36 Simon, a Pharisee, asked Jesus to eat with him, and so Jesus went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. 37 And a woman in the city, who was known as a sinner (someone who did not live by the Jewish laws), having learned that Jesus was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. 38 She stood behind Jesus at his feet, crying very hard, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and dried his feet with her hair. Then she kissed Jesus' feet and anointed them with the ointment.

39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited Jesus to eat saw what was happening, 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 a story to tell you." "Teacher," Simon replied, "speak." 41 Jesus said, "A certain banker had two customers who had borrowed money from him; one borrowed fifty thousand dollars, and the other borrowed five hundred dollars. 42 Then the banker discovered that neither customer could pay back what they had borrowed. So the banker said to both of them, "You don't have to pay me back." Now which of the customers will love the banker more?" 43 Simon answered, "I suppose the one who didn't have to pay back the \$50,000 because that's much more than \$500." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly."

44 Then turning toward the woman, Jesus said to Simon the Pharisee, "Do you see this woman? I've come to your house and you gave me no water for my feet, but she has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. 45 You gave me no greeting, but from the time I came in she has not stopped paying attention to me. 46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. 47 She does this, I tell you, because her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; this is why she has shown great love. But because you think you do not sin, then no forgiveness can be offered to you and so you have very little love to give." 48 Then Jesus said to the woman, "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 Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

- In Jesus' time and place, in public, women did not touch men.
- Uncovered hair by a woman in public was a sign that she was a harlot.
- Having a harlot (or prostitute) touch Jesus was considered even worse than if just a "regular" woman was touching him.
- Most scholars believe that Jesus and this woman had had some previous sort of interaction before this interaction, most likely a healing. If you use this idea, then the actions of some of the characters makes more sense.

CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

Sit down by yourself with a pen(cil) and paper. Either write down the words or say out loud a request to God to help you name and identify ways that you may be living without God and how that might hurt you and/or others. Give yourself and God 10 minutes after you ask. Write down whatever comes to mind. If what you see is something you want to let go of – then admit what you've done and ask God for forgiveness. God will forgive you. Try this at least twice during the week.