

Luke 7:28-50

²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

²⁹ (All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus’ words, acknowledged that God’s way was right, because they had been baptized by John. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and experts in the law rejected God’s purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.)

³¹ “To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like?

³² They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other:

“ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge, and you did not cry.’

³³ For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ ³⁴ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and “sinners.” ’ ³⁵ But wisdom is proved right by all her children.”

Jesus Anointed by a Sinful Woman

³⁶ Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. ³⁷ When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, ³⁸ and 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.”

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

“Tell me, teacher,” he said.

⁴¹ “Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”

⁴³ Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled.”

“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—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.”

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

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 8:1-3

¹ After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; ³ Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod’s household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

Luke 7:28 - 8:3

1. Explain Luke 7:28. What is your reaction to that verse?
2. Why did people react in different ways to the words of Jesus? (7:29-30) What did their reactions say about their relationship with God?
3. Explain Luke 7:32. What did Jesus say you should do to avoid getting caught in a similar situation? (7:35) How can you do what Jesus recommended?
4. Of what messengers of Jesus should you be wary? Which should you welcome? How do you recognize them?
5. What limits or expectations do most people place on their hospitality? (Who is invited, welcome at arrival, expected behavior, arrival/departure time, etc.)
6. Why do you think the sinful woman came to the Pharisee's house? (To upset him, to ruin the party, to seek forgiveness, to minister to Jesus, or something else).
7. What made the Pharisee so upset? (Her reputation, his reputation, Jesus' acceptance of the woman)
8. Jesus' story about the two men owing money seems a strange response to the Pharisee. What was he actually saying to Simon? (a) you can't know grace because you don't think of yourself as a sinner, (b) you are a bigger sinner than the woman but you don't know it, (c) the more you've sinned, the more your love for God, (d) the more you've been forgiven, the more your love for God.
9. How did the other guests react to Jesus' forgiveness of the woman? (7:49)
10. When have you ever felt like Simon or the other guests when confronted by a person of questionable morals?
11. What was Jesus' double blessing on the woman?
12. What are the limits of Jesus' compassion toward us?
13. In the opening verses of Chapter 8, why do you think Luke took the time to mention the women in Jesus' following? What is the meaning of this to you?