

LET YOUR HAIR DOWN

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Introduction:

As we gather today, I want us to transport ourselves to a time and place in the Gospels—a humble home in Bethany, where the air is thick with tension and judgment. Jesus is reclining at the table, surrounded by religious leaders who are often more concerned with appearances than authenticity. In stark contrast, a woman known for her sinfulness enters the scene, carrying an alabaster box filled with precious ointment. Her heart is full of love and desperation, and she is ready to break through societal norms and expectations. Today, she teaches us about worship that is raw, real, and transformative.

1. The Posture of Her Worship

Scriptural Reference:

Luke 7:37-38

And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment. And standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head...

Commentary:

Picture this woman, tears streaming down her face as she approaches Jesus, not demanding His attention but humbly positioning herself at His feet. She understands that true worship begins in humility. She doesn't come to get in His face; she comes to get at His feet. Her posture reflects a heart that knows the weight of her sin and the depth of His grace. Worship starts here—when we recognize our need for Him.

Application:

How often do we come to God with a heart full of pride? Let's embrace humility and approach Him, knowing we are nothing without His grace.

2. The Price of Her Worship

Scriptural Reference:

Mark 14:3

And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he reclined at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly...

Commentary:

Now, let's talk about the alabaster box. This was no ordinary gift; it was a year's wages! Imagine breaking open something so precious just to pour it out. This woman wasn't concerned with the cost; she understood that worship that doesn't cost us anything is not worth anything. She breaks it, and in that moment, she teaches us that real worship is sacrificial. Are we willing to break open our own alabaster boxes for God?

Application:

Think about what you hold dear. Are you ready to give God your best, even when it hurts?

3. The Place of Her Worship

Scriptural Reference:

Luke 7:39

Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner.'

Commentary:

This woman worships in full view of everyone, unashamed and unapologetic. She's not part of the "Secret Service" of worship—her love for Jesus is visible for all to see. Her act challenges us: Are we willing to worship openly, even when others might scoff or judge? Her humble, public display becomes a testimony of God's grace, and that's the kind of worship that makes an impact.

Application:

Let's not hide our worship. Be bold! Let your love for Christ shine brightly, even in a world that often judges.

4. The Passion of Her Worship

Scriptural Reference:

John 11:2

It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill.

Commentary:

When she lets her hair down, she is giving God her very essence—her glory! In Jewish culture, a woman's hair represented her honor, yet here she is, using it to wipe Jesus' feet. That's passion! Real worship is messy, it's emotional, and it glorifies God. When we worship with our hearts fully engaged, we're inviting God to take center stage.

Application:

Are you passionate in your worship? Don't hold back! Pour out your heart and let it overflow in gratitude.

5. The Prompting of Her Worship

Scriptural Reference:

Luke 7:47

Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.

Commentary:

Jesus reveals a profound truth: her worship is ignited by her awareness of forgiveness. When we understand the depth of our own forgiveness, it should ignite a fire of worship within us! The more we realize how much we've been

forgiven, the more we are compelled to love and worship Him.

Application:

Reflect on your life—how has God’s forgiveness transformed you? Let that ignite a passion for worship that cannot be contained!

Conclusion:

As we meditate on the actions of this remarkable woman, let us be inspired to let our hair down in our worship. Let’s embrace humility, recognize the cost, be bold in our expressions, show passionate love, and allow our gratitude for His forgiveness to propel us into deeper worship.

Are you ready to break open your alabaster box and pour out your life as a fragrant offering to the One who gave everything for you? Let’s worship Him in spirit and truth, allowing our hearts to overflow with love and gratitude.