

* DEALING WITH SINNERS | LUKE 7:36-50 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 9/28/2025

I. Actions of a Broken Woman (36-38) | II. Actions of an Unbroken Man (39-43) | III. Actions of a Forgiving Savior (44-50)

INTRO: Last week, we learned of **Jesus' Dealings with Doubt**. – In today's sermon we will learn **How Jesus Perceives and Pardons Sinners**. – A contrast of the Repentant and the Rigid as He DEALS WITH SINNERS. *

I. ACTIONS OF A BROKEN WOMAN (36-38) – READ

A. Agreement to Fellowship with a Pharisee (36) – The Pharisee, invited Jesus to his home to eat with him (*perhaps for curiosity or even scrutiny*). – Jesus accepted the invitation as an opportunity to minister.

B. A Sinful Woman Pursues Jesus (37-38) – **BEHOLD**, Luke introduces the third character of this story.

1. **Who was this woman? (37a)** – She was **not Mary Magdalene** of (Luke 8:2), and **not Mary of Bethany** (John 11:2, 12:3). – I mention this because Jesus' feet were anointed with oil and wiped with a woman's hair on two different occasions. – Despite their similarities, the two incidents are sometimes mistaken for one another. – **This woman is NOT named**, but her pursuit of Jesus teaches us much about **Brokenness!**

a. She was a woman of the city (*a prostitute*) – A profession that was prone to mistreatment, suffering, and ultimately emptiness, which **resulted in regret and remorse**.

b. She was labeled as a **SINNER** amongst the people (*everyone knew this about her*) – At this point in her life, **she recognized it to be true**. – (Rom 3:23) *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*.

2. **What did this woman do? (37b-38)** – **She KNEW that SHE NEEDED JESUS!** (*It was time for her to surrender*)

a. **She KNEW that Jesus was at the Pharisees home** (*she had connections*) – She pursued Jesus!

b. **She BROUGHT an alabaster flask of fragrant oil** (*she was resourceful*) – An expensive gift to honor Jesus.

c. **She STOOD behind Jesus, at His feet** (*she was respectful - think of the position!*) – As Jesus reclined on a couch while eating, with His head near the table, she stood at His feet. (*How to you approach Jesus?*)

• If you check the harmony of the Gospels, you will discover that just before this event, Jesus had given a gracious invitation to all, **"Come unto me...and I will give you rest."** (tt. Matt 11:28-30) – After much self-examination, I believe that this woman was responding to Christ's invitation!

d. **She was WEEPING!** (*as a result of her sin*) – **She knew that she was guilty** of the sins of the flesh. She had been **carrying the heavy weight of her sin for far too long... causing her to be broken!**

e. **She WASHED Jesus' feet with her tears!** – Figuratively, what does this speak to us? More importantly, what does it say to God when a person is broken like this before His feet?

• (Psalm 51:17) The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart – These, God, You will not despise!

f. **She WIPED His feet with her hair** – Her hair was part of her occupation, used to seduce men.

g. **She KISSED Jesus' feet!** – **kataphileo**, to kiss much, again and again, tenderly. **An act of love!**

h. **She ANOINTED Jesus feet with very Costly oil!** – Such worship and sacrifice revealed her conviction that there was nothing too good for Jesus.

P/A – **What aroma does your worship send to God's throne?** – *The actions of this sinful woman reveal that she was broken and in need of a Savior!* – **SHE WAS REPENTANT...** Nothing else mattered to her at this point! – (Psalm 34:18) The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart and Saves Such as have a contrite spirit.

II. ACTIONS OF AN UNBROKEN MAN (39-43) – READ: HOW Jesus KNOWS and DEALS with the Rigid

A. The Pharisee's Perception (39) – His attitude was quite different than the sinful woman! – He actually looked upon Jesus' acceptance of this woman with Disdain, Disgust and Disapproval

1. **He Spoke to Himself** (*murmured in his own heart*) – He believed that Prophets, like Pharisees, should be separate from sinners... but **DIDN'T SAY IT!** – (*Shameful things are usually the things that we mutter with our lips!*)
2. **His Presumption** – He reasoned that Jesus must not be a legitimate prophet since He allowed this sinful woman to **"Touch Him!"** (*bestow such affection*).
 - It's comforting to know that **Jesus is Touchable**... even by sinners! (*We can always reach out to Him!*)
3. **His Judgment of the Woman** (*He knew that she was a sinner?*) – **Who was the Real Sinner here?** – This contrast is very similar to that of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. (tt. Luke 18:9-13) – Jesus spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and **despised others**:

B. Jesus' Perception (40) – Christ's omniscience revealed the Pharisee's thoughts.

1. **He identifies the Pharisee by name: Simon** (*When Dealing with our Sin, Jesus calls us out by name! - Impression*)
2. **He told Simon that He had something to SAY** (*Not murmur*) – Jesus is always straightforward and truthful!
3. **He was told to speak on** – This was actually a commendable thing for Simon to SAY. – We should always seek to hear what Jesus has to say on any issue... are you listening? (*Don't cut Him off*)

C. Jesus Provides a Parable (41-43) – *A short relatable story used to illustrate a deeper spiritual truth.*

1. **The illustration included a Creditor and Two Debtors (41-42b)** – Both **OWED** the creditor money!
 - a. While the value of a denarius fluctuated, one Biblical reference to the coin suggests that at the time, it was worth one day's labor, or about **\$50** in today's money (**Matt 20:2**). – i.e., \$25,000 & \$2,500
 - b. **Neither** of the debtors could repay their debt (**42a**) – (*Think spiritually here! – As for you and I for Our Sin*)
 - c. **The Creditor** chose to Graciously Forgive the debt of each man (**42c**) – *Who does this speak of now?*
2. **After the illustration, Jesus asked Simon a Question (42c)** – *Who will love the creditor more?* (**Agapao: verb**) – This teaches that debt forgiven he more we are forgiven, the more we should love!
3. **Simon's Answer (43)** – His natural answer, **"he supposed"** that it would be the one who had the greater debt. (*it was an easy test!*) – *Jesus then informed him that he judged correctly*. – **But the obvious also applies to Simon**. – But Simon failed to recognize his own self-righteousness as SIN! –

P/A – **Many remain Blind to the plain and simple lessons that Jesus tries to teach.** – This is what occurs when we are **Not Broken!**

- The woman **KNEW** that the debt that she owed was great; however, **Simon did not see the debt that he owed!** – **SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS is a life-threatening condition** experienced by those who do not believe in **Jesus Christ**, and **His Word** (Rom 2:8; 2 Thess 2:12). Those who reject Christ are **LOST** (John 6:68-69). – Being spiritually blind, they are perishing (2 Cor 4:3-4; Rev 3:17).

Closing Thought: Dr. H. C. Woodèring said so pointedly, *“When God cannot get religious leaders to appreciate Christ, He will get harlots to do so.”* – God can make the rocks cry out, yet some of our hearts this morning have formed into the toughest stone that exists... **PRIDE AND BLINDNESS!**

III. ACTIONS OF A FORGIVING SAVIOR (44-50) – READ: Jesus compares the actions of each sinner

A. Differences Recognized (44-47) – *Still speaking to Simon, Jesus turned to the sinful woman* and asking if he saw her? – He then gave a series of concluding statements, which **revealed who had the greater sin!**

1. **He Commented on Simon’s Hospitality (44)** – **NO WATER** was given for Jesus’ feet (*a common practice of the day*). – Yet the woman used **HER TEARS** to wash Jesus’ feet!
2. **He Commented on Simon’s Greeting (45)** – **NO KISS** (*again a common practice amid the Jewish culture*). Yet the broken sinful woman **DID NOT STOP KISSING** Jesus’ feet since she arrived! – **kataphileo**
3. **He Commented on the Woman’s Anointing Oil (46)** – She **APPLIED** the **FRAGRANT OIL** on Jesus’ feet, yet Simon **FAILED TO ANOINT THE HEAD** of Jesus! – **Understand that both actions gave off an AROMA!** – W. Wiersbe said, *“True faith cannot be hidden, true faith shows itself in love and worship”*

B. Drawing His Conclusion (47-48) – As Jesus **evaluated the contrast** between the Sinful Woman and the Sinful Pharisee, He revealed **who was worthy** of His fellowship and forgiveness... **the BROKEN Woman!**

1. **He Said that her Many Sins were Forgiven (47a)** – He righteously **CANCELLED** her past debts! (*All Debt!*)
2. **He Saw that the woman had Much Love (47b)** – Her **GREAT LOVE** was **PROOF** that she had been forgiven, probably personally before and now publicly! – *But she came to Jesus for the assurance of it!*
3. **He Provided a Factual Principal (47c)** – *To whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.* – In other words, **Forgiven much, Love much!** (*Why do you think she was Weeping and Washing and Wiping and Kissing! = DEVOTION*) – How do you categorize your sin? **BIG** or **LITTLE?**
4. **He told her that He Forgave Her in Front of All (48)** – Jesus does for us when we acknowledge and accept Him into our hearts! – *Before the angels and before the Father in Heaven!* (Matt 10:32)

P/A – Jesus **KNOWS** that we are **SINNERS** who fall short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23) but waits for us to ACKNOWLEDGE and CONFESS our **SIN** before Him (tt. 1 John 1:5-9) – The unbroken Pharisee couldn’t SAY it!

C. Defining Forgiveness (49-50) – Luke then focuses on *“the comments”* of the other dinner guests, who *“began to SAY to themselves,”* just as Simon the Pharisee did! – *Notice that...*

1. **Jesus’ Action is Questioned Again (49)** – The majority of people will always question Who Jesus is and What Jesus is doing. – That’s ok... Reasoning in our hearts is GOOD, if it is SEARCHING for TRUTH! – He **KNEW** their hearts also but focused on the much needed ASSURANCE that this woman needed..
2. **Jesus Clarifies what Saves a Person (50a)** – *“Your FAITH has saved you.”* He also said this directly to the woman. Jesus’ WORD brought healing power to her broken spirit. **Not only forgiven but SAVED!**
 - (Eph 2:8-10) *for by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

3. **She then went in PEACE! (50b)** – Everyone desires **PEACE** but there is only One Way to find it! –

- (Rom 5:1) *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS: ***Jesus is faithful in DEALING WITH SINNERS!*** – He is also *faithful to* **FORGIVE ALL SINNERS** who come to Him, who *recognize their BROKENNESS* before Him! *Is that you?...*