

A Grace Encounter

Part 2

Luke 7

36 Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. 37 And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, 38 and stood at His feet behind *Him* weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped *them* with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed *them* with the fragrant oil. 39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw *this*, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman *this is* who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."

40 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

So he said, "Teacher, say it."

41 "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"

43 Simon answered and said, "I suppose the *one* whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." 44 Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped *them* with the hair of her head. 45 You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. 46 You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. 47 Therefore I say to you, her sins, which *are* many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loves little."

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

49 And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

50 Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

"Grace is the currency of heaven by which God reveals his nature and demonstrates his love."

The Grace of God Reveals His Abundant Mercy

Jesus said

41 “There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both.

God is able to forgive both the who owes five and the one who owes five hundred.

In this account with Jesus there were two kinds of people:

1. **The Earning:** The Religious who want to earn or achieve.
2. **The Undeserving:** The woman who knew she had nothing to give.

The Pharisee left with nothing...

The woman left having received something from God that night...

Vs. 47 “But to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loves little.”

He who is forgiven much, loves much.

He who can receive the most can give the most back

The Grace of God Demonstrates God’s Love

It is clear that this woman’s love for Jesus was abundant and unashamed...

This woman was not ashamed to love Jesus...

Jesus was not ashamed of this woman...

But the way this woman loved Jesus seemed to embarrass those Pharisees.

“O for more of this love! If I might only pray one prayer this morning, I think it should be that the flaming torch of the love of Jesus should be brought into every one of our hearts, and that all our passions should be set ablaze with love to him.” (Spurgeon)

- The Grace of God Demonstrates God’s Love

A Party for a Prostitute

It was one of the most extraordinary birthday parties ever held. Not it wasn’t in a plush ballroom of a grand hotel. There were no famous celebrities, nor anyone rich or powerful. It was held at 3am in a small seedy cafe in Honolulu, the guest of honor was a prostitute, the fellow guests were prostitutes, and the man who threw it was a Christian minister!

The idea came to Tony Campolo very early one morning as he sat in the cafe. He was drinking coffee at the counter, when a group of prostitutes walked in and took up the stools around him. One of the girls, Agnes, lamented the fact that not only was it her birthday tomorrow but that she’d never had a birthday party.

Tony thought it would be a great idea to surprise Agnes with a birthday party. Learning from the cafe owner, a guy named Harry, that the girls came in every morning around 3.30am Tony agreed with him to set the place up for a party. Word somehow got out on the street, so that by 3.15 the next morning the place was packed with prostitutes, the cafe owner and his wife, and Tony.

When Agnes walked in she saw streamers, balloons, Harry holding a birthday cake, and everyone screaming out “Happy Birthday!” Agnes was overwhelmed. The tears poured down her face as the crowd sang Happy Birthday. When Harry called on her to cut the cake she paused. She’d never had a birthday cake and wondered if she could take it home to show her mother. When Agnes left there was a stunned silence. Tony did what a Christian minister should. He led Harry, Harry’s wife and a roomful of prostitutes in a prayer for Agnes.

It was a birthday party rarely seen in Honolulu – thrown by a Christian minister for a 39 year old prostitute who had never had anyone go out of their way to do something like this and who expected nothing in return. Indeed, so surprising was this turn of events that the cafe owner found it

hard to believe there were churches that would do this sort of thing, but if there were then that's the sort of church he'd be prepared to join.

The Grace of God Redefines who God is to us:

Vs. 48-50

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

49 And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

50 Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

Those who sat at the table called Jesus Teacher

The woman who was forgiven called Jesus Lord

In my Bible the **subtitle** reads - **Jesus Forgives a Sinful Woman**

I wonder if she ever saw that day coming...

No doubt she felt her and God were in two different worlds...

No doubt she felt completely unworthy...

That day she saw God...

That day she was in his presence...

That day she received mercy and forgiveness...

That day her perspective of God changed forever...

The Grace of God Redefined who God is to her...

Psalm 116

1

I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;
he heard my cry for mercy.

2

Because he turned his ear to me,
I will call on him as long as I live.

Amazing grace!
how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch;
like me!