

Beautiful News
Part 2: Peace in the Storm

Objective: To remind us that Jesus loves us unconditionally and to challenge us to love others with that same unconditional love.

Read together:

A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. 38 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...

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..."

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—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little..."

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 7:37-50

- The woman in this story had lived a "sinful life." This sinful life made her an outcast in her community. What are the things that make people outcasts in your community? Have you ever done things that made you feel like an outcast? (You don't have to be specific.)
- Compassion is a part of offering unconditional love. What does compassion look like to you? Who do you know that needs compassion right now?
- What can you do (or what are you doing) to add value to the lives of others? (Be specific)
- Forgiveness is hard to give and sometimes hard to receive. Why do you think that is? How does forgiveness put unconditional love on display?

Consider this week:

- How can you practice showing unconditional love this week? Who, specifically, do you need to love unconditionally?

Final Thought: We all want to receive unconditional love, but sometimes we get in our own way. One of the best ways to experience Christ's unconditional love for us is to practice offering it to others.



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