

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (May 8, 2022) Mom's Day FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

It's Mother's Day! Today, with children of all ages, we celebrate the importance of moms. Many of us have moms who sacrificed for us, loved us, taught us, cared for us. All of us should have had that type of mom, some of us wish we had been that type of mom, sadly some did not, and some of us were not. Some of us have few, if any, good memories; love was twisted or absent. Maybe the sorrow we feel is due to dreams that went unfulfilled, or a losses heartache. Thankfully for all of us God never abandons us. His love heals, forgives, and can create something good and beautiful out of what was (maybe still is) broken, painful, missing.

My mom did all she could to love and protect me. I know she loved me. I know she was proud of me. I have many good memories. I think of her with affection and appreciation. As the years have passed I see that she was broken herself, intimidated, fearful. She was a single parent in a time when that was an aberration. I'm also thankful to God for a number of women who served as additional surrogate moms in my life, some who had no children of their own, but who unofficially adopted me. They loved and sacrificed for me too. This morning our story, from the life of Jesus, introduces us to a woman whose life was complicated and painful. She needed a new beginning. Thankfully she came to the right place, and the right person, she came to Jesus. He is THE miracle worker, whether it's broken bones, corrupt DNA, heartache, or choices we wish we had not made. His compassion is genuine, His love real, His power to heal absolute. He still heals today. We thank Jesus for our moms, and we thank Jesus for loving and healing our moms ... and us too.

HE KNOWS and HE FORGIVES (Luke 7:36-50)

⁴¹One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. ³⁷And 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, ³⁸and 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 and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. ³⁹Now 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.' ⁴⁰And Jesus answering said to him, 'Simon, I have something to say to you.' And he answered, 'Say it, Teacher.'

⁴¹'A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?' ⁴³Simon answered, 'The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.' And he said to him, 'You have judged rightly.' ⁴⁴Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven — for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.' ⁴⁸And he said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.' ⁴⁹Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, 'Who is this, who even forgives sins?' ⁵⁰And he said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'"

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. What do we know about the woman in this passage? What do we learn about the Pharisee? About Jesus?
2. How did this woman approach Jesus?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

3. Why did Jesus accept the Pharisee's invitation?
4. Why wasn't the woman wanted at this dinner?
5. What did Jesus mean by, "he canceled the debt of both"?
6. What does "he who is forgiven little, loves little" mean?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

7. Who would be unwelcome at parties you are invited to?
8. How would you have reacted if you had been the Pharisee hosting this meal? If you had been one of the other guests?
9. What kind of debtor are you? How much do you owe God?
10. What is your response knowing God has forgiven you?
11. Knowing you are forgiven, how do you view other "sinners"?

As you spend time praying remember that prayer is meant to be the most natural, easy, and empowering part of your day. Prayer is talking to God, knowing that He hears you, and that He loves you. In your prayers ask God to help you understand the depth, the amount, of your own sin, and how much He has forgiven you. Ask God to increase your love for Him, and your compassion for other fellow sinners. Ask God to help you believe you are forgiven, and live in that freedom. God will help you because He is ALIVE and He loves you.