
ENCOUNTERS
AT THE FEET OF JESUS
A SERMON SERIES ON COMING FACE TO FACE WITH JESUS
WEEK 3

LUKE 7:36-50

36 One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. 37 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,

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38 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
and kissed his feet and anointed them with the
ointment. 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

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who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." 40 And 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. 42 When they could not pay,

LUKE 7:36-50

he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?” 3 Simon answered, “The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.” And he said to him, “You have judged rightly.” 44 Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me

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no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. 47 Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven

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—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” 48 And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” 49 Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this, who even forgives sins?” 50 And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

MATTHEW

6 Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, 7 a woman came up to him with an **alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head** as he reclined at table.

MARK

3 And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an **alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head**.

LUKE

37 And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, …brought an **alabaster flask of ointment, 38 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 and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.**

JOHN

3 Mary therefore took a **pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair.** The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

MATTHEW

8 And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, **“Why this waste?** 9 For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.”

MARK

4 There were some who said to themselves
indignantly, “Why was the ointment wasted like
that? 5 For **this ointment could have been**
sold for more than three hundred denarii
and given to the poor.” And they scolded her.

LUKE

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.**”

JOHN

4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples...said,
5 “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” 6 **He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief**, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.

MATTHEW & MARK

“Why do you trouble the woman? For **she has done a beautiful thing to me**...12 In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. 13 Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

LUKE

41 “A certain moneylender had two debtors.
One owed five hundred denarii, and the other
fifty. 42 When they could not pay, he cancelled
the debt of both. Now which of them will love
him more?” 43 Simon answered, “The one, I
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debt.” And he said to him, “You have judged

rightly.” 44 Then 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. 45 You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 You did not anoint

my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. 47 **Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little."** 48 And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." 49 Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves,

LUKE

“Who is this, who even forgives sins?” 50 And he said to the woman, **“Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”**

JOHN

7 Jesus said, “**Leave her alone**, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. 8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.”



ALABASTER FLASK

In the ancient Near East, genuine alabaster was highly prized because it was a translucent stone that grew at an incredibly slow rate. It had to be mined and meticulously carved into delicate, thin necked flasks. It was chosen specifically because it was one of the few materials capable of perfectly preserving expensive ointments and perfumes-keeping them cool, pure and unspoiled.



ALABASTER FLASK

- built with a long, narrow neck that was often sealed with wax to keep rare fragrances from evaporating.
- often held pure nard or exotic balms worth a year's wages
- breaking the narrow neck of the jar meant the action was final and irreversible—none of the perfume could be saved or put back.

We are the flask

Don’t let anything steal your worship

Seek His face
before you seek
His hand

Leader: Jesus welcomes us.
Church: Even when others reject us.
Leader: Jesus forgives us.
Church: And receives what we bring.
All Together:
We will not hide in shame.
We will come to the feet of Jesus.
And we will leave transformed by His love.