



DAY FIVE MARY CHUY

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

Hello Victory, I wanted to start with this question that Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” We’ll come back to it during our devotional.

As I was preparing, the one phrase that kept coming back to me was what Jesus told the woman who washed His feet with her hair, “Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.” (Luke 7:47 AMP)

You might think that this is a generic story to pick when talking about the Heart of Worship, but sometimes we miss the details in the story.

Before we dive into the story, picture Jesus asking you, as His disciple, “Who do you say that I am?” Who can you say Jesus is to you?

To give you some context, Pharisees represented the common people, the Jewish middle class and had influence on religious practices and cultural life. One of the many things they believed in and emphasized was a life of holiness and worship in every-day life, not only in the temple. They also followed legal traditions from “the traditions of the fathers”, Abraham was considered one of the fathers of the faith. Well, what’s wrong with that, you might ask, let’s read Luke 7:36-50 out of the AMP version and we’ll unfold more of it.

36 - "One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and He went into the Pharisee's house [in the region of Galilee] and reclined at the table (the place of communion).

37 - Now there was a woman in the city who was [known as] a sinner; (there are many names and titles in Scripture, "Prophet" and "Pharisee" were popular, but the name "sinner" wasn't popular or wanted by anyone) and when she found out that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume;

38 - "and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began wetting His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head, and [respectfully] kissed His feet [as an act signifying both affection and submission] and anointed them with the perfume.

39 - "Now when [Simon] the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, "If this Man were a prophet (how many times have we doubted that He is Who He says He is?) He would know who and what sort of woman this is who is touching Him, that she is a [notorious] sinner [an outcast, devoted to sin]." (He was focused on her way of living, on her outer appearance, on her sin, on what others will think. Yes, it was true, sinful women were not allowed in the presence of consecrated men, but Jesus focused on her heart and she ran in desperate need of her Redeemer).

40 - "Jesus, answering, said to the Pharisee, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he replied, "Teacher, say it."

41 - "A certain moneylender had two debtors: one owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

42 - When they had no means of repaying [the debts], he freely forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?"

43 - Simon answered, "The one, I take it, for whom he forgave more." Jesus said to him, "You have decided correctly."

44 - Then turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? (He acknowledge her) I came into your house [but you failed to extend to Me the usual courtesies shown to a guest]; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair [demonstrating her love]. (It was their custom that when a guest came into their house, that they'd have

water to wash their feet, as Abraham a father of the faith did (Gen.18:4), but Simon wasn't ready for that. Who was Jesus to him? Certainly, for the woman, Jesus was not just a prophet, as He was for Simon, as he even doubted.)

45 - You gave Me no [welcoming] kiss, but from the moment I came in, she has not ceased to kiss My feet.

46 - You did not [even] anoint My head with [ordinary] oil, but she has anointed My feet with [costly and rare] perfume. (When Jesus came into Simon's house, He longed to make it a house where He could rest, but Simon missed it, He didn't realize WHO was in the room, but the woman did. She wanted to wash His feet so He could rest.)

47 - "Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little."

(Everyone in the room was acquainted with her life and sins, Jesus was aware and made sure to say it to release her into freedom)

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

49 - Those who were reclining at the table with Him began saying among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" (When Jesus has saved and redeemed you, it doesn't always look pretty or "perfect" to others, but nothing matters more than knowing Him. They were even questioning Jesus' background)

50 - Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith [in Me] has saved you; go in peace [free from the distress experienced because of sin]."

I want us to stop here and think in all honesty, how many times have we missed it? How many times have we missed Jesus in the room and not prepared a place where He can rest? Like Simon, we think "we know Scripture". We even miss it when we judge others who we think are unworthy of His Salvation and forgiveness. We miss The Living Word of God that became flesh, The Son of Man that is dwelling among us, that atoned for our sins and the sins of many who have not come to the Table.

Who do we say He is? Do we believe HE IS WHO He says He is?

Let's go to Genesis 18:1-5 ESV.

“And the Lord appeared to him (Abraham) by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth and said, “O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. (Without stopping to visit) Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on – since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.””

Abraham was so acquainted with God and His voice that He understood when God was present. He knew what God loved. He wanted God in the flesh to stay, even if it was only for a little while, and he prepared a place where He could rest. Abraham believed God was Who He said He was, and it says it was counted to him as righteousness, even when he had not seen the promise coming to pass, but He knew, and it pleased God. (Gen.15:6)

As a Pharisee, Simon, was looking for a “perfect scenario”, for an appearance of consecration, for people to acknowledge he invited Jesus to his house and he was a friend of the “so called prophet of the hour”, but Jesus was dealing with much more than that. The woman broke more than just an expensive alabaster jar, she broke the standards of religion, the cultural limitations, the legal traditions, her dreams, her past, her sinful life and reached the feet of the Master. She didn’t just have an encounter with Jesus, she was changed completely by Jesus Himself. If He had asked her the question, “Who do you say that I am?” What would’ve been her answer?

Was Simon given the same chance? Absolutely. Jesus was in his house and gave him the chance of a life transformed. We don’t know more about him, or the woman, but her honest offering became the new standard of a life surrendered at the feet of Jesus.

Abraham transcended into history as a friend of God, because he was willing to sacrifice the life of his son at the Lord's request.

How does God like to be worshipped? In Spirit and in Truth. (John 4:23-24)

God is not looking for perfect hearts but hearts that are honest, surrendered, obedient to His desires, but to know His desires, you have to sit at the Table and commune with Him.

The disciples were with Jesus for 3 1/2 years and their lives were radically transformed, to the point when Jesus asked them, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter received a revelation from the Father.

Matthew 16:13-17 ESV

"Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven."

This revelation doesn't happen on a weekly basis during every service, but on a daily life spent with Jesus basis, sitting at The Table learning from Him, listening to Him speak.

When you behold Jesus and see Him rightly, when you lift Jesus and you let Him reveal Himself to you, He will reveal to you who you are and you will find your identity in Him. The Holy Spirit will lead us to Jesus, and Jesus is the way to the Father.

The question remains for us daily, "Who do you say that I am?" and we ought to answer daily, because He is the daily Bread of Life. He doesn't require sacrifices, just a life of obedience.

So let's go back to the beginning, "Who is Jesus to you?"

What are you willing to give up, surrender, or offer at the feet of Jesus? He loved you that much that He gave Himself up for you.

Are you willing to be vulnerable to Him and have a transparent relationship with Him?

“Fire shall be kept burning on the altar continually; it shall not go out.” Leviticus 6:13 ESV