

The Gospel of Luke

A Woman, A Pharisee, and the Parable of Two Debtors

Luke 7:36-50

1. The Characters

This event in Jesus' ministry revolves around three primary individuals: Jesus, an unnamed woman, and a Pharisee named Simon. Nothing specific is known about Simon or the woman except what is given in these several verses.

2. The Scene

Simon the Pharisee had requested for Jesus to dine with him, and He accepted; Jesus dined with both the religious and with the outcast. Simon had also invited other guests to this meal (cf. v.49). Though the meal itself was held in Simon's home, meals like this were semi-public events that enabled uninvited persons to be near.

3. The Points of Conflict

A. The Woman's Treatment of Jesus (vs.37-39)

She had planned on some sort of interaction with Jesus, but when she is near Him, she is overcome with uncontrollable emotion that renders her either unaware or disinterested of what others will think about her actions.

B. Simon's Treatment of Jesus. (vs.44-46)

Jesus points out Simon's failure to do for Him what the sinful woman had done. Simon's refusal to have Jesus' feet washed, to greet Him with a kiss, or to anoint His head with oil was at the very least somewhat discourteous and possibly very rude.

4. The Parable Lesson

The greater the debt is that is cancelled results in a greater love and gratitude for the One who has cancelled that debt.

5. The Conclusion

A. The Proper Understanding of My Sin.

No one who has ever received the forgiveness of God should ever consider another's sin debt as more than his own.

B. The Response to God Forgiving My Sin.

Realizing that my sin debt that has been forgiven was more than I could pay will result in a genuine love of and care for Christ.