

POWER HOUR

4/21/2024

Lesson Text:
Luke 7:36-39, 44-50

Background Scripture:
Luke 7:36-50

Devotional Reading:
Romans 8:1-16

“FAITH OF AN ANOINTER”

NLT TRANSLATION

Learning Facts: To summarize a sinful woman's encounter with Jesus.

Biblical Principle: To compare and contrast the mindsets of Jesus, the Pharisee, and the woman.

Daily Application: To evaluate your mindset in light of those three.

Luke 7:36-39, 44-50 NLT

36 One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. **37** When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. **38** Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them. **39** When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She’s a sinner!”

44 Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn’t offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. **45** You didn’t greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. **46** You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume. **47** “I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.” **48** Then Jesus said to the woman, “Your sins are forgiven.” **49** The men at the table said among themselves, “Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?” **50** And Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

HOW TO SAY IT alabaster al-uh-bas-ter.

INTRODUCTION/LESSON CONTEXT

A Person's Value

Jesus not only accepted hospitality from the publicans (tax collectors) and sinners but also from the Pharisees. They needed the Word of God too, whether they realized it or not. We trust that Simon's invitation was a sincere one and that he did not have some ulterior motive for having Jesus in his home. If he did, his plan backfired, because he ended up learning more about himself than he cared to know!

The text features Simon, a Pharisee, and a sinful woman who both met the merciful Savior. Jesus' interaction with them reveals an important link between forgiveness and love.

POINTS TO PONDER

Jesus' parable does not deal with the amount of sin in a person's life but the awareness of that sin in his heart. How much sin must a person commit to be a sinner? Simon and the woman were both sinners. Simon was guilty of sins of the spirit, especially pride, while the woman was guilty of sins of the flesh (see 2 Cor. 7:1). Her sins were known, while Simon's sins were hidden from everyone except God. And both of them were bankrupt and could not pay their debt to God. Simon was just as spiritually bankrupt as the woman, only he did not realize it.

Christians are to flee from sin and obey God. We show our love for God when we keep His commandments (1 John 5:2-3). But does this justify us when we reject and condemn those who struggle with sin? Are sinners welcome in our fellowship if they are seeking to love Jesus? Or must they clean up their sinful lives before they enter the doors of our church? Jesus taught that even the vilest of sinners can be forgiven if they turn to Him in faith and love. Are we willing to follow Him in His love for sinners and help them as they strive to follow Jesus, however imperfectly?

QUESTION(S)

- What blessing did you experience after being vulnerable at Jesus' feet?
- What danger is there in not acknowledging our sins as serious or many?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You have shown us Your willingness to forgive sinners. May we not keep that message to ourselves! And let us not be selective in pretending to know who will accept and who won't. Help us to love our neighbors as You love us by taking the good

news of Your Son to them. In His name, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

THOUGHT TO REMEMBER

To have forgiveness, we must first realize that we need it.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is "Faith of a Canaanite" and summarizes the interaction between Jesus and a Canaanite woman. Study Matthew 15:21-28.