

CALVARY CHAPEL OF PHILADELPHIA

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
3RD-5TH GRADE
TEACHER'S PACKET

SUNDAY MORNING

Study 10

A Sinful Woman Forgiven



A Sinful Woman Forgiveness

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective This lesson will teach the kids that understanding God's forgiveness will help us love Him more and think better of others.

Key Verses

Luke 7:36-50—Main Teaching Passage

Romans 3:23

1 John 4:19-21

1 Samuel 16:7

2 Corinthians 5:17

Memory Verse - 2 Corinthians 5:17

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Matthew 16:14-15.

Have two other teachers (or students) join you in the front. Greet one warmly and tell everyone how glad you are that they are here. But treat the other coldly, paying little attention to them (warn this person beforehand, especially if you are using a student).

Ask the students how they would feel if they were invited to a party and were treated this way. In today's story, this is what someone did to Jesus.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Jesus was invited to dine in the house of Simon the Pharisee, so He went. After Jesus sat down to eat, a sinful woman from the city came to where He was seated with an expensive and fragrant oil in a special flask. She began crying so much that she soaked Jesus' feet with her tears and began to wipe His feet with her hair. She broke the flask, kissed His feet, and anointed them with the oil. As Simon watched this, he thought that if Jesus was really a prophet, He would know what kind of woman this was: a great sinner. Jesus responded to Simon's thoughts with a story.

Two people owed the same person money. One owed a large sum, and the other, ten times as much. Both were unable to pay back what they owed, and both were forgiven of their debt. Jesus asked Simon who he thought would love the one who had forgiven them more. Simon answered that it would be the one who was forgiven of more. Correct!

Jesus turned to the woman and spoke to Simon. He pointed out that Simon had not given Jesus water to wash his feet, greeted him with a kiss, or given Him any oil with which to anoint His head, but this woman had continually washed Jesus' feet with her tears, kissed them, and anointed them with oil. Therefore, her many sins were forgiven, for she loved much. But those who are forgiven little will only love a little.

Jesus then said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven!" Those who were there began to question who Jesus thought He was to forgive sins. As they questioned among themselves, Jesus said to the woman, "Go in peace. Your faith has saved you."

The interpretation/
exegesis of the passage.
What does this passage
mean? How does this
passage apply to my
life?

LOOK

The setting of this chapter is Simon's house. A meal like this wouldn't have taken place in a dining room like yours, but in a courtyard, which allowed others to come and listen to the conversation of those eating at the table. They wouldn't be eating at a raised table with chairs like we're used to, but at a table called a triclinium, that was low to the ground in a "U" shape. People would recline around the table and prop themselves up with their elbows while their feet extended behind them away from the table. This is why the woman had access to Jesus' feet.

It must have been quite the interruption, but the atmosphere was already tense and awkward. Jesus, an invited guest, wasn't extended the basic hospitality the other guests would have received. It seems that Simon didn't even greet Him, let alone provide water for washing His feet and ointment for His head. Any tension already present only amplifies as

LOOK (Continued)

this sinful woman enters and begins weeping uncontrollably.

Known publicly as a great sinner, this woman comes with a gift of costly ointment for Jesus — a gift of worship, flowing from a deep love and appreciation for her Savior. She herself had been forgiven and is overwhelmed at Jesus' love for her. Whoever and whatever she was had passed away. She was a new creation in Christ, and nothing was going to keep her from pouring out her costly gift at the feet of Jesus. Simon responds inwardly with contempt.

"Judge not that you be not judged," Jesus had taught. In response to Simon's thoughts, Jesus shared a short story to teach Simon that He and this woman had more in common than he realized. Both Simon and the woman were debtors who couldn't afford to pay off their debts. Jesus was the only One with power to forgive them. We should be careful not to have a heart like Simon's. If there is anything good in us, it is only by the grace of God received by faith in Jesus.

All have sinned, so all are indebted to God, and the wages of sin is death. The amount of debt isn't the focus. Little or much, none of us can pay the price that is needed. Jesus isn't saying that you have to sin more in order to love Him more. Anyone who truly understands their need for a Savior's forgiveness will love God much. We love Him because He first loved us. Even the worst of sinners has the capacity to be forgiven, to worship, and love God with all of their heart and be accepted by Him. That being said, it's important to ask the question, "How much do I love God?"

It's not what others think of us that defines us. It's not who we once were that determines who we are or who we will be. All that matters is what Jesus says of us. If you put your faith in Him and ask Him to forgive you of your sins, you can be sure that He will do so. He would say the same to you that He said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace. Your faith has saved you." And for us who are forgiven, the only appropriate response is to come boldly to Him in worship.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17

Pray: Thank God for the forgiveness of sins through Christ alone. Ask God to help you love Him more each day as you grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus.

Family Question: In Luke 7, what three things did the woman do for Jesus that Simon didn't?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Luke 7:36-50 by David Guzik

Jesus forgives a sinful woman.

1. ([Luke 7:36-38](#)) A sinful woman anoints Jesus' feet.

Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind *Him* weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped *them* with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed *them* with the fragrant oil.

a. **Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him:** This seems to show that relations between Jesus and the religious leaders were not yet totally antagonistic. There were some **Pharisees** who at least wanted a closer, honest look at Jesus.

b. **And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner:** Some suppose this was Mary Magdalene, but we have no evidence of this. In [John 12:3](#) Mary of Bethany also anointed Jesus' feet with oil, but this was a separate incident.

i. "It ought not to astonish you that there were two persons whose intense affection thus displayed itself; the astonishment should rather be that there were not two hundred who did so, for the anointing of the feet of an honored friend...Loved as Jesus deserved to be, the marvel is that he was not oftener visited with these generous tokens of human love." (Spurgeon)

c. **Who was a sinner:** This tells us more than that she was a sinner in the sense that all people are. She was a particularly notorious **sinner** — most suppose that she was a prostitute. Her presence in the Pharisee's home showed courage and determination.

i. Trapp calls her, "A strumpet, a she-sinner... a hussy."

ii. It was bold for a woman with a sinful reputation to come into the house of a Pharisee, but she was willing to do anything to express her love for Jesus.

d. **Brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil:** Both the container and the contents show that this was an expensive gift she brought to honor Jesus. Since Jesus later announced that her sins were forgiven ([Luke 7:48-50](#)), it may be that Jesus forgave her earlier, and would soon publically declare her forgiven.

i. Morris on the **alabaster flask**: "It had no handles and was furnished with a long neck which was broken off when the contents were needed...We may fairly deduce that this perfume was costly. Jewish ladies commonly wore a perfume flask suspended from a cord round the neck, and it was so much a part of them that they were allowed to wear it on the sabbath."

ii. "Her service to Jesus was personal. She did it all herself, and all to him. Do you notice how many times the pronoun occurs in our text? [*she*, three times and *her* twice in [Luke 7:37-38](#)] ... She served Christ himself. It was neither service to Peter, nor James, nor John, nor yet to the poor or sick of the city, but to the Master himself; and, depend upon it, when our love is in active exercise, our piety will be immediately towards

Christ — we shall sing to him, pray to him, teach for him, preach for him, live to him.” (Spurgeon)

e. **And stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears:** We can imagine that as the woman anointed Jesus’ feet with oil, she was overcome with emotion. With tears flowing from her eyes, she washed His feet with her tears, wiped them clean with her hair, and she kissed His feet repeatedly.

i. “People reclined on low couches at festive meals, leaning on the left arm with the head towards the table and the body stretched away from it. The sandals were removed before reclining.” (Morris)

ii. Normally, this oil was used on someone’s head. “In all probability, the woman intended to anoint Jesus’ head with her perfume. But, because Jesus, like the other participants, reclined with His head toward the table, the closest the woman could get to Jesus was His feet.” (Pate)

iii. “O for more of this love! If I might only pray one prayer this morning, I think it should be that the flaming torch of the love of Jesus should be brought into every one of our hearts, and that all our passions should be set ablaze with love to him.” (Spurgeon)

iv. “To have her hair flowing would be deemed immodest...[she] kissed fervently, again and again.” (Bruce)
We can only imagine how awkward this scene was, and how everyone silently watched the woman and her emotional display. No one said anything until Jesus broke the silence in the following verses.

2. **(Luke 7:39-40) An objection to what the woman did.**

Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw *this*, he spoke to himself, saying, “This man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman *this is* who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.” And Jesus answered and said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” So he said, “Teacher, say it.”

a. **When the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this:** The host now became a questioner, possibly a hostile one.

b. **This man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner:** Simon the Pharisee doubted that Jesus was a prophet because he thought that Jesus was unable to see this woman’s heart. Jesus will show that He can read the heart of man by exposing Simon’s heart.

c. **Simon, I have something to say to you:** Jesus broke the silence — probably a terribly awkward silence — by saying that *He* had something to say, and to say personally to Simon.

i. “When all the philosophers are dumb, and cannot give one word of help or comfort; when learning has no message to inspire or to console the heart; when sympathy hesitates to break the silence...the Lord has something to say.” (Morrison)

3. **(Luke 7:41-43) Jesus answers with a parable.**

“There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?” Simon answered and said, “I suppose the *one* whom he forgave more.” And He said to him, “You have rightly judged.”

a. **There was a certain creditor who had two debtors:** Jesus used a simple parable to illustrate the point that the more we are forgiven, the more we should love.

i. “Christ tells the supercilious and self-conceited Pharisee by this parable, that himself was a sinner also as well as the woman, and as a debtor to God’s judgment, had as much need of his grace in Christ for remission of sin and removal of wrath.” (Trapp)

ii. “All men are debtors to God; yet some are greater debtors than others.” (Spurgeon)

b. **Which of them will love him more?** Simon seemed to hesitate in his response (**I suppose**). He probably understood that Jesus set a trap with this story.

4. ([Luke 7:44-47](#)) Jesus applies the parable to both Simon and the sinful woman.

Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped *them* with the hair of her head. You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. Therefore I say to you, her sins, *which are many*, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, *the same loves little*.”

a. **Do you see this woman?** Simon the Pharisee thought that *Jesus* was the one who could not see her. His thought was, “Jesus, don’t you see this shameful woman associating so closely to You?” Jesus turned the thought around on Simon, saying, “**Do you see this woman?** Simon, do you see her love, her repentance, her devotion? That’s what I see.”

i. Simon the Pharisee did not see the woman as she *was* (a humble sinner seeking forgiveness, pouring out love for Jesus) because he looked at her as she had *been* (a notorious sinner).

ii. “It is not easy for us to blot out a past, and to free ourselves from all prejudice resulting from our knowledge of that past. Yet that is exactly what the Lord does. And He does so, not unrighteously, but righteously. He knows the power of His own grace, and that it completely cancels the past, and gives its own beauty to the soul.” (Morgan)

b. **I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet:** Simon the Pharisee denied Jesus the common courtesies from a host to a guest — washing the feet, a kiss for a greeting, and anointing the head with oil. Yet, he criticized the woman for giving these courtesies to Jesus.

i. Jesus noticed *neglect* and *appreciated* devotion. He did not reject deeply emotional devotion.

c. **I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much:** She wasn’t forgiven *because* of her great love; her great love was evidence that she had been forgiven, probably privately on a prior occasion and now publicly.

5. ([Luke 7:48-50](#)) Jesus assures the woman of her forgiveness from God.

Then He said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” Then He said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”

a. **Your sins are forgiven:** If Jesus has already said that her sins *are forgiven* ([Luke 7:47](#)), yet He also said this directly to the woman. We need the healing power inherent in the words **your sins are forgiven**.

i. It can be so hard for us to truly believe that we are forgiven; often, we must be *persuaded* of it.

b. **Who is this who even forgives sins?** Jesus had the authority to forgive the woman, and He was right to do so. She displayed *humility, repentance, trust, and love for Jesus*.

i. “Even the guests began to realize that Jesus was more than a prophet; He was divinely able to forgive an unclean woman.” (Pate)

c. **Your faith has saved you:** The key to her forgiveness was **faith** — it was her faith that saved her, because it was her faith that believed the words from Jesus **your sins are forgiven**. Faith enabled her to take the grace God gave to her.

i. Forgiveness is ready from God; there is no hesitation or shortage on His part. Our part is to come with humility and loving submission to Jesus, and to receive the forgiveness He offers by faith.

d. **Go in peace:** The woman came to Jesus in complete humility, with the attitude that she was not worthy to

even be in His presence. That was a good way for her to come to Jesus, but He did not want her to *stay* there. He raised her up, acknowledged her love, forgave her sin, and sent her in peace.

i. The word “**go**” was probably not welcome. She liked being at the feet of Jesus. Yet Jesus sweetened the “**go**” by adding, “**in peace**.” She could **go in peace** because she heard from Jesus that her faith had **saved** her.

ii. Of the works done in this chapter, this was the greatest. Healed sickness (as in the centurion’s servant), or restored life (as in the widow’s son) are not permanent works of healing, because those bodies would one day die again. Sins that are forgiven are forgiven *forever*.

©2018 David Guzik — *No distribution beyond personal use without permission*