

Forgiveness is God's Fuel for Us

Parties of Jesus # 2

Luke 7:36-50

May 12, 2024

Pastor Art Dunn

4 Anointing Stories

- **Matthew 26:6-13** (Burial) ⁶ And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, ⁷ a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. ⁸ But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? ⁹ For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor." ¹⁰ But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. ¹¹ For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. ¹² For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. ¹³ Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."
- **Mark 14:3-9** (Burial) ³ And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head. ⁴ But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, "Why was this fragrant oil wasted? ⁵ For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they criticized her sharply. ⁶ But Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. ⁷ For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. ⁸ She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. ⁹ Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."
- **Luke 7:36-50** (Today's Study)
- **John 12:1-8** (Burial) ¹ Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. ² There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. ³ Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. ⁴ But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, ⁵ "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" ⁶ This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what

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was put in it. ⁷ But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. ⁸ For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 7:36-50 ³⁶When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. ³⁸As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

³⁹When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

⁴⁰Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said.

⁴¹"Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

⁴³Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

⁴⁴Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

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

⁴⁹The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

⁵⁰Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

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Parties bring out real personalities of people and what they really think.
Discover motives that fuels and ignites spiritual discovery and commitment.
Discover counterfeit sources of spiritual motivation.
What are good motives to appeal to get someone to do something.

MAIN IDEA

Devotion to Christ is Fueled by the Experience of Forgiveness...

- Christ Forgiveness Fuels our Devotion to Christ

...Not One's Past...

- There is not enough fuel in our guilt to power our Christian life.
- When we try to guilt people into doing things, we are appealing to the wrong thing.
- Cleansing of the past, not guilt over it, draws us to the Savior.

...Not Self Improvement...

- Christian Growth is not about getting "Continuing Education Credits"

...Not Future Fears...

- Fearful of falling back into the old ways.
- "Go in Peace"
 - Intentions don't save us, efforts don't save us, faith saves us.
 - Peace has to do with a wholeness of life, a total wellbeing.
 - Devotion driven by fear is not to be compared to a devotion grows out a grateful and forgiven heart.
- "Shalom"

...And Not Cultural Correctness.

- Things we are told...
 - Look out for # 1 (ourselves). *Our #1 is the Lord.*
 - Do your own thing. *I find out what God's thing is and do that. He designed me and I do the real thing.*
 - Don't be a fanatic. *We need to respond with "All for Jesus".*

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- Your Christian faith will hold you back if it is obvious. *I'll get as far as God wants me to go in whatever I do and I'm not afraid of my faith holding me back.*

Jesus establishes the positives and exposes the negatives not to pay attention to.

Don't evaluate others by your standards.

Express the life freeing power of forgiveness and your gratitude to Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

Every Sermon Should Have Something To

- ❖ Know/Understand ... Faith clashes with culture
- ❖ Believe ... I believe in God's forgiveness
- ❖ Do ... Don't operate out of guilt, but what would a forgiving God want me to do. Use meal events for ministry connections.

Feed on Forgiveness.

Resources: "Morning and Evening" by Charles h. Spurgeon (devotional)

"Obvious: Seeing the Evil That's in Plain Sight and Doing Something About It"

by Albin Sadar

"The Ethical Executive" by Donald V. Seibert