

She Loved Much

Jesus confronted disease, death, and doubt. He didn't come into the world to save us from a physical disease but rather from the consequences of a spiritual one.

Note: I've enjoyed and recommend Mark E. Moore's "The Chronological Life of Christ." Some of my comments can be found in his material by coincidence (he's not the only one making such observations articulated in his material), and other times, I've leaned on his accurate and helpful observations. He's done an excellent job making 1st-century culture and practices available.

Events between last week's lesson and today: Jesus pronounces "woes" against towns who rejected Him. He calls those who are burdened to turn to Him. (Matthew 11:20-30; Luke 10:13-15).

The Unnamed Woman (Luke 7:36-50)

- Though this account seems to fit Mary's wiping the Lord's feet with her hair and expensive ointment, there are several differences. Mainly the timing of the account and, more importantly, the focus. In Matthew, Mark, and John's account, the woman prepares Him for burial. This account is about the woman's love for Jesus and forgiveness. Nothing of burial preparation is hinted at.
- *What grabs my attention:*
 - I preached about this woman around a year and a half ago. I'd be surprised if you remember, so I'll summarize my main observations. Then I'd like to discuss another point of view:
 - A woman:
 - Who didn't seek physical healing.
 - Who fits Jesus' parable.
 - Who "loved much."
 - Who kept our eyes on Jesus and not her critics.
 - Whose sins "are forgiven." Perfect tense. (Action completed in past but ongoing.)
 - A man who didn't see well:
 - He didn't see her.
 - He didn't see himself.
 - He didn't see Jesus.
 - Jesus:
 - A Savior who wasn't impressed with invitations, position, or knowledge.
 - A Savior with perfect vision.
 - A Savior to the lowly.
 - A Savior with a sympathetic style.
 - Being forgiven doesn't mean:
 - She was liberated from her old reputation.
 - She was delivered from temptations.

- She was freed from the shame of her past sins.
- She was released from financial difficulties.
- But the grace of Jesus would carry her through!
- Application: What I think we need to see nonstop? People who love.
 - I'm thinking about love that involves emotion and action.
 - *Emotions*: Tears don't prove a turn, but it's nice to see them. It's because of what's behind it. Brethren, it concerns me if nothing can affect me anymore, and quite frankly, it should concern you. This gets to the heart of the matter. What's important to you? Why is it important? The Bible is filled with healthy emotions. God wanted us to experience emotions, so He made us that way.
 - When was the last time your soul was stirred??
 - What or who was it?
 - *Repentance*: We typically say that growth in the Lord requires prayer, study/meditation, positive mindsets, and service. If you think about it, we're saying our lives need to be a living sacrifice, our spiritual worship. Isn't that what the woman is doing at Jesus' feet? However, there's one more element we should specifically mention. It's what I see happening in the scripture, what marked the beginning of my walk with the Lord, and the tangible experience from which others can draw encouragement and strength. A lack of repentance hurts the church because it's no longer made up of seekers who are changing. No change in you may encourage a lack of change in your brother/sister.
 - Are we trying to maintain perfection or constantly changing?
 - What's the difference between a sinner and saint?
 - How often do you sin?
 - Do you need to repent today?
 - What are we doing about it?
 - Do you know how Jesus will respond?
 - Do you appreciate this message? If not, I've got to ask: what's wrong with you? Do you realize that you're self-righteous? Isn't that the point of Simon? Simon doesn't see himself clearly. The woman knew exactly who she was. Do you?