

## LIFE ILLUSTRATED: FOGEDDABOUDIT!

Lorne Pearson

July 31,2022

- *“When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, He went to the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. A 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.” Luke 7:36-37*

### A. The Participation:

#### 1. Come to the Lord Boldly.

- a. In those days when you went to dinner at somebody’s house you reclined close to the ground and would have cushions or rugs to lie on in a configuration known as a triclinium arranged in a U shape.
- b. This ‘sinful woman’ gathers up every ounce of courage that she has. The law of the day said that she could be stoned to death for defiling the home of a holy man.
- c. She’s taking an enormous risk. But she sees Jesus, and she is just undone by love and comes boldly.
- d. Do we?

#### 2. Come to the Lord Humbly.

- a. *“As she stood behind Him at His feet weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair....” Luke 7:38a*
- b. She knows what it’s like to be snubbed and insulted and be treated with disrespect. She knows what it feels like to ignored, slighted, looked down upon, shunned and belittled and she immediately identifies with Jesus who is obviously and uncomfortably slighted. And she is moved.
- c. She’s on her knees at Jesus’ feet in front of everybody. But she’s come in humility to Jesus.
- d. This is God in the flesh allowing himself to be touched by a sinful person. Think about the implication of that for you.

#### 3. Come to the Lord Honestly.

- a. Everything about her life is represented in this jar. Her sin, her failure, her lifestyle, her work, her past - all represented in this gift that she brings to Jesus. This is honesty - her confession. She’s saying this is who I am.

#### 4. Come to the Lord Extravagantly. Giving your all.

- a. *“Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.” Luke 7:38b*
- b. She holds nothing back. She gives it all. She empties all that has out. She unashamedly pours this flask, her life, on his feet, and she kisses them over and over.
- c. *“Give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God...This is truly the way to worship Him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person...” Romans 12:1-2*
- d. When is the last time you had a moment like that with Jesus?

- *“When 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.”* Luke 7:39
- The Pharisee only saw her as a sinner who deserved judgment. Jesus saw her as a woman who needed forgiveness.

### **B. The Parable:**

- *“Then Jesus answered his thoughts. ‘Simon,’ I have something to say to you.’ Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred pieces of silver and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both.”* Luke 7:40-42a

### **C. The Point.**

- *“Now which of them will love him more?” Simon replied, ‘I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled.’ ‘You have judged correctly,’ Jesus said.’ Then He turned toward the woman and said to Simon, ‘Do you see this woman?’”* Luke 7:42-44
- *“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. You did not give Me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing My feet. You did not put oil on My head, but she has poured perfume on My feet.”* Luke 7:44-46
- From the Pharisee’s position he can’t actually see the woman clearly anymore because Jesus is in the way. He can only see Jesus. Jesus has placed Himself between the woman and her accuser and turned His face to the sinner - this humble woman in her distress.

### **D. The Principle.**

- *“Therefore I tell you, her sins—which were many--have been forgiven...”* Luke 7:47a
- *“Then Jesus said to her, ‘Your sins are forgiven.’ The other guests began to say among themselves, ‘Who is this who even forgives sins?’ Jesus said to the woman, ‘Your faith has saved you; go in peace.’”* Luke 7:48-50
- *“Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”* Luke 7:47
- Neither the woman nor the Pharisee could repay the debt they owed. The Pharisee was counting on his own goodness. The woman is counting on God’s mercy.
- When we understand the depths of our own sin and failure and how much we really owe to God, it changes the way we love him. It deepens our love for him.
- He who was forgiven little loves little. He who is forgiven much loves much.
- If our love of God is shallow it means that I don’t understand the depth of my sinfulness nor how much God really loves me.

### **E. The Personal?**

- Who do you relate to in this story?
- Who is the big debtor before Jesus?
- *“You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of debt that stood against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.”* Colossians 2:13-14
- *Whoever has been forgiven little loves little.*