

A Formula for Loving Jesus More

Luke 7:30-50 (text: v. 47)

Most of us would admit we do not love Jesus enough.

- What makes the difference in how much we love Jesus?
- Why does it seem some people love Jesus more than others?
- Luke 7:30-50 gives us a clue.

➡ In our text we see:

- A **Sinner** (v. 37). Although her sin is not specifically mentioned, it is likely she had the reputation of being morally loose—Prostitute, an adulterer or fornicator, living with her boyfriend but not married.

She heard about Jesus being in the home. She came and slipped in behind Jesus while He is reclining at the table. Weeping, she washes His feet with her tears and anoints them with her oil of perfume.

- The **Savior**
- A **Skeptic** (v. 39). Simon was aware people were saying Jesus was a prophet (v. 16). Simon is skeptical—*“This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.”* Jesus proved He was a prophet by reading Simon’s thoughts and revealing his needs.
- A **Story** (v. 40).

I. **Jesus Delivered a Parable** (vs. 41-42).

➡ This parable is about two debtors:

A. Their **DEBT** (v. 41). Sin pictured as a debt that is owed.

1. They were both in debt to the same person—God.
2. They had different amounts of debt—SIN.

B. Their **DISABILITY** (v. 42). They were the same in their inability pay—They had **NOTHING** to pay.

1. In Bible times, if a man could not pay his debts, he was punished and/or imprisoned (Mt. 18:23-35). His children could be conscripted to work to pay off the debt.
2. It doesn’t matter how much a person owes if he has nothing.

3. Until you realize you have “*nothing to pay*,” you will not come to God for forgiveness.

C. Their DELIVERANCE (v. 42).

1. Both had the same need—Forgiveness (v. 42).
2. Both received forgiveness on the same basis—“*frankly*” means “openly; freely; without reservation.” Their debt was forgiven freely and by grace. The forgiveness was entirely on the part of the creditor.
3. **Picture of salvation:** All are bankrupt sinners without any means of redeeming ourselves. We face punishment in hell if our sins are not forgiven. But anyone who comes to Christ for forgiveness, as this woman did, are freely forgiven all their sins, and our punishment is cancelled. It is all of grace (Eph. 2:8).

II. **Jesus Drew a Parallel** (vs. 42-50).

➡ Simon and the woman were both sinners.

A The woman is the 500 pence debtor (v. 47—“...*her sins which are MANY...*”).

1. She was guilty of sins commission. Her sins were known, while Simon’s sins were hidden to everyone except God.
2. Her tears were tears of repentance and humility (Ps. 51:17).
 - ➡ How many tears would it take to wash a person’s feet? More than I’ve ever shed.
 - ➡ She dried Jesus’ feet with her hair. A woman’s long hair is her glory (1 Cor. 11:15). She sacrificed her personal glory and beauty to serve Christ by cleaning the dirt off her Savior’s feet. [NOTE: It is a good thing she obeyed the Bible and had long hair, or else she wouldn’t have enough hair to wipe the feet of Jesus with.]
3. Her forgiveness (v. 48).
4. Her faith (v. 50). Her faith was demonstrated by her works.

B. Simon was the 50 pence debtor.

➡ v. 44—“*Seest thou this woman?*” (cf. 39). “Simon, look at this woman. You think you see her, but you don’t really see her at all.” Simon didn’t see her as Jesus did. Jesus saw her repentant heart.

➡ **Simon’s real problem was blindness:** He could not see the woman... could not see himself... nor could he see the Lord Jesus. It was easy for him to say, “She is a sinner!” but he could not say, “I am also a sinner!”

1. Simon was guilty of sins of the spirit.
 - Critical spirit.
 - Unbelief—“*If he were a prophet...*” (cf. v. 49).
 - Self-righteous.
 - Pride— “*The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee*” (Obad. 1:3). Simon was just as spiritually bankrupt as the woman, but too proud to realize it.
2. Simon was guilty sins of omission (vs. 44-46).
 - No **courtesy**— The Lord is saying, “You did not even exercise the common courtesies of the day.”
 - No **conviction**— “*I suppose...*” (v. 43).
 - No **compassion**. He could not love the sinful woman because of his blindness to his own condition.

III. **Jesus Declared the Principle** (v. 47).

➡ The principle: **LOVE = PERCEPTION OF SIN + FORGIVENESS.**

The greater the perception of our sin **plus** the assurance of God’s forgiveness will **determine** the measure of our love and service.

I will never forget the first time I met Bob Usher in 1974. He’s a barber. I was with Pastor Blue when he went to get his hair cut at Bob’s barber shop at Hwy. 99 in Lynnwood. As we walked into the shop, Bob was giving a customer a shave. He was holding a straight razor in one hand and a New Testament in the other. He was witnessing to this guy while he was shaving him! He definitely had this guy’s undivided attention!

I don't know too many people who loved Jesus as much as Bob Usher. He never missed a church service. He taught a boys S.S. class. He worked on a church bus route. Both his sons, Dennis and Doug, graduated from Bible College and went into the ministry.

I commented to Pastor Blue, "Bob sure does love Jesus, doesn't he?" Pastor Blue answered, "He that is forgiven much, the same loveth much!"

Before Bob was saved he lived a wicked life. His barber shop was also a front for booking gambling bets. But when he became a Christian, he turned a corner of his barber shop into a Christian book store! God forgave him much—Therefore Bob Usher loves the Lord much!

LITTLE LOVE (Simon)	MUCH LOVE (the woman)
Withholds	Spares no expense (vs. 37-38)
Neglects	Looks for ways to serve (v. 38)
Critical	Weeps in gratitude (v. 38)
Haughty	Stoops in humility (v. 38)

SUMMATION: How to cultivate a sense of the depth of God's forgiveness in your life:

1. Have a clear view of your sinful condition (James 2:10).
2. Be fully persuaded of the debt your sin has incurred and your inability to pay!
3. Have a sharper sense of sin's awful penalty—What you've been saved from (Luke 16).
4. Consider again the price Jesus paid to save you (1 Pet. 1:18-19).
5. Have a greater appreciation of the loss God suffered to forgive you. When the creditor forgave the two debts, that meant he had to suffer a personal loss himself. To forgive sinners, God had to suffer the loss Himself!