**Week of Oct 27, 2019**

**Luke 7:37-48-10**

**Key Verse:** “Wherefore I say unto thee, her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.”

(Luke 7:47)

**37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, 38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. 39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, 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. 40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. 41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. 42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? 43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. 44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she\* hath washed my feet with tears and wiped them with the hairs of her head. 45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman\* since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman\* hath anointed my feet with ointment. 47 Wherefore I say unto thee, her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. 48 And he said unto her, thy sins are forgiven.**

**Understanding the Scriptures**

This week’s lesson we see Simon hosting a dinner at his home, and Jesus was an invited guess. There are at least nine men named Simon in the New Testament. The Simon in this narrative is Simon the Pharisee. The Pharisees were an influential group of Jews who were sincere but misled in believing that religious ritual and separation from common sinners was the way to please God and to prepare for God’s coming. During dinner, a sinful woman invited herself when she realized Jesus was a guest at Simon’s home. She knelt before Jesus and began to wash his feet. In the ancient world, it was the custom when on hosted a dinner party to wash the feet of their guests as they arrived. However, she was not the host, but when she arrived, she washed the feet of Jesus with her tears. This woman came with a jar and used the contents of the alabaster jar to anoint Jesus’ feet. Ointments were usually perfumed oil kept in alabaster container. They were used as cosmetics in religious ceremonies and for anointing the dead.

The scripture notes that the woman kissed the feet of Jesus. According to early Jewish sources, there were three kinds of acceptable public kisses, hellos, goodbyes and expressions of devotion. As the woman washed, kissed and anointed Jesus’s feet, Simon had his own private thoughts about her reasons for kissing him. Jesus knew what Simon was thinking and responded to Simon’s thoughts with a parable. The parable taught that a person who is forgiven much loves more that a person who is forgiven for something small. Jesus illustrated the parable by comparing the forgiveness of a five-hundred-denarii debt to a person being forgiven of a fifty-denarii debt. In this practical down to earth story, there was no way Simon would have missed the point that Jesus was making.

Republishing of the Sunday School Publishing Board

