

Sunday School Lesson, April 21, 2024
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Lesson—How Much Do You Love Me¹

Text—Luke 7:36-39;44-50

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Analyze how the sinful woman rose above her shame to give honor to Jesus.
2. Recognize Jesus' acceptance of and unconditional love for them as they are.
3. Celebrate the complete acceptance and forgiveness available through God's unconditional love.

Why This Lesson Matters: How do we overcome the weight of judgment and scrutiny from those who refuse to see past our mistakes? Luke teaches about a woman who rose above others' rejection and expressed her gratitude for Jesus' love and forgiveness.

Key Verse—(Luke 7:50) He said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee go in peace. (KJV)

Song of Praise and Worship: "I Am Healed," by Donald Lawrence & the Tri-City Singers

II. Points to be Emphasized

- a. We should take note that there is a difference between oil and ointment. Olive oil was usually used to cleanse and refresh traveling guests, but ointment was a more valuable gift, likely scented with spices and aromatic perfume.
- b. We should take note of the cultural difference between a Pharisaic leader and a woman who was known to be in sexual sin.
- c. Everything about what the woman did for Jesus would be considered inappropriate and uncomfortable then and now, crossing social and cultural boundaries.
- d. Although it was an honor to be invited to Simon's home, his lack of hospitality suggests insincerity and ulterior motives.

¹ Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at www.sspbnb.com

III. *Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context*

There was no love lost between Jesus and the Pharisees. Between the two groups- Pharisees and Sadducees-Jesus had more to say negatively about the former than the latter. This may have been because the common people among the Jews identified more with the Pharisees than the Sadducees.

Concerning the Pharisees, the term pharisee is related to the Hebrew parish, which means “separated ones.” While the Bible does not spell out clearly what they separated themselves from, there are several possibilities.

1. They may have seen themselves as separated from the unclean in the land- people, animals, and things.
2. They may have seen themselves as separated from the priestly class, the Sadducees, represented by the wealthy in the community. The Pharisees identified themselves with the common folk.
3. Lastly, and most interestingly, the Greek name for “*pharisee*” is a form of the Aramaic word for “Persian,” and the word Persians was a nickname given to the Pharisees by the Sadducees due to the former's willingness to introduce foreign teaching (Persian / Iranian) into Judaism.

IV. *Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson*

Jesus: also referred to as Jesus of Nazareth or Jesus Christ, was a 1st-century Jewish preacher and religious leader he is the central figure of Christianity, the world's largest religion. The savior in whom all Christians believe.

The Pharisee(s)—Simon. He invited Jesus into his home but failed to render the expected courtesies.

The Woman of the City: This unnamed woman entered the house of the Pharisee, uninvited, demonstrating love and gratitude most unusually and intensely.

V. *Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)*

Alabaster Box (v.6)—*Greek: alabastron:* a vial or bottle of perfumed ointment, usually alabaster (a compact, fine-textured usually white and translucent gypsum)

Peace (v.9)—*Greek: eirene;* one; quietness; rest; peace of mind (KJV)

Sinful (v. 39)—*Greek: hamartolos:* properly, loss from falling short of what God approves; sinning; depraved; detestable; “a sinner.”

Tears (v. 39)—*Greek: dakruaon:* evidence of sorrow; teardrops.

VI. *Topical Outline of the Lesson*

1. Introduction
2. Guess Who Came to Dinner (7:36-38)
3. A Study in Contrasts (vv. 39, 44-50)

Food for thought and question for consideration: **(What have we learned Charlie Brown?)** How do you or have you tangibly shown your love for Christ (lately)?