

# Our Lord and the Woman Who Was a Sinner

## Luke 7:36-50

by R.A. Torrey

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*Our Lord's compassion and forgiveness are available to all sinners, regardless of their past, and faith is the condition for receiving this forgiveness.*

**Scripture:** Luke 7:36

**Topics:** "Forgiveness", "Humility"

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### Description

R.A. Torrey explores the profound encounter between Jesus and a sinful woman in Luke 7:36-50, emphasizing the contrasting attitudes of the Pharisee and the woman. The Pharisee, who invited Jesus, judged the woman harshly, failing to recognize his own need for forgiveness. In contrast, the woman, aware of her sinfulness, approached Jesus with humility and love, leading to her forgiveness and peace. Torrey highlights that true love for Christ stems from recognizing the depth of our sin and the magnitude of His forgiveness. Ultimately, the sermon calls believers to reflect on their own hearts and the transformative power of Christ's grace.

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### Transcript

#### DISCOVERY OF THE FACTS

1. A Curious and an Anxious Seeker, vv. 36-39 Who invited our Lord to eat with him? What was the purpose of the invitation? Did He ever on any other occasion receive an invitation to eat from this class? (11:37; 14:1.) Did He ever receive invitations from a different class? (Mark 2:14, 15.) How many of these invitations did He accept? How many of us can have Him at our table? What unexpected guest came to the Pharisee's house? What sort of a woman was she? What drew her there?

What gave her the courage to come to our Lord? (Matt. 11:28.) Did He like to have such persons come where He was? (5:30-32.) What did she bring with her? What for? What did she do when she got where He was? Why did she weep? Is it a good thing for sinners to weep? (Ps. 51:17; Joel 2:12, 13.) Is sorrow for sin repentance? (2 Cor. 7:10.) What was it moved this woman to penitence? Would Pharisaic treatment have done it? What did the Pharisee conclude from this scene? Where was he right in his reasoning?

Where was he wrong? According to his idea how is righteousness to be shown? According to Christ's idea how is righteousness to be shown? Are there any people who hold the Pharisee's idea today? Did our

Lord know this woman was a sinner? Was that to His mind a reason for rejecting her? (1 Tim. 1:15.) 2. A Critic Rebuked and a Penitent Commended, vv. 40-46 How did our Lord prove to this supercilious Pharisee that He could read hearts? What did He say first to him? Why did He have something to say to Simon?

Has He anything to say to each of us? In this parable who is represented by the creditor? By the two debtors? By representing both the Pharisee and the woman as debtors, what does our Lord aim to teach him? By picturing Himself as the creditor of both, whom does He assume to be? In what second point does our Lord represent the Pharisee and the woman as being alike (v. 42)? How many men and women are alike in these two respects? (Ro. 3:22, 23.) Had the Pharisee realized it? Do moral, respectable sinners today realize that they are just like drunkards and harlots and thieves and murderers in these two respects?

Ought they to be taught it? When men have "nothing to pay" what does our Lord do? Before they enjoy that forgiveness what must they do? (Luke 18:13, 14.) With what question did He conclude His parable? What was the purpose of this question? (To show the Pharisee that if this woman had been a greater sinner than he, she was now a more loving saint.) According to this, what must there be before there can be any deep, intense love for Christ? Why is it some of us have no deeper and intenser love for Him?

Will those forms of Christianity that minimize sin and have little to say about pardon, produce a very ardent love for Christ? How many of us have sinned enough to put us in the class of those who have been much forgiven? Why is it then that we do not love more? Did Simon see the purpose of Christ's question? What was the second question our Lord put to Simon? Did he really see the woman? What was all he saw in her? What did our Lord see in her? What is all the Pharisee of today sees in a redeemed man or woman?

What does our Lord see in a redeemed man or woman? What contrast did He draw? Who appears in the better light in that contrast, Simon or the woman? Who appears in the better light in His eyes today, the redeemed outcast now filled with intense love to his Redeemer or the cold moralist? With whom was our Lord better pleased, Simon or the woman who had been a sinner? With whom is He best pleased today? Does He mark the dishonor shown Him today as He did that shown by this Pharisee?

Does God? (Heb. 10:28, 29.) 3. Forgiveness, Love, Peace, vv. 47-50 What was the conclusion our Lord drew from this woman's act? Was she forgiven because she loved much, or did she love much because she was forgiven? What will be the proof that we are forgiven? What did He say to the woman? What does "forgiven" mean? Does He say that to any today? To whom? (Acts 13:38, 39.) Had she a right to say she knew she was forgiven? How did she know it? Has the believer a right to say he knows he is forgiven?

How does he know it? Did Jesus say: "Thy sins shall be forgiven"? If the woman had questioned whether she was forgiven, what would she have been doing? What did the hearers say? What is the right answer to that question? What did our Lord tell the woman had saved her? What ground had she for her faith? (Matt. 11:28.) How had her faith saved her? How many will faith save? (Ro. 1:16.) What were Christ's closing words to the woman? Why could she "go in peace"? How alone can we "go in peace"? (Ro. 5:1.)

CLASSIFICATION OF TEACHINGS

## 1. Our Lord

His humanity, 36; deity, 40, 41, 42, 48, 49; compassion for sinners, 38; attractiveness to sinners, 37; knowledge of sinners, 39-47; power to forgive sinners, 48; desire for and appreciation of the love of

sinners, 44-46.

## 2. Sinners

Drawn to our Lord, awakened by Him, 37; received by Him, 39; forgiven by Him, 48; when saved, devoted to Him, 44-46.

## 3. Forgiveness

Free to, needed by all sinners, great and small, 42; our Lord the giver, 48, 49; faith the condition, 50; peace and love the result, 47.

## 4. Faith

Comes to our Lord, 37; begets love to Him, 44-46; enters into His peace, 50.

## 5. Simon and the Woman

Moral, 41.

Immoral, 37.

Honored, 26.

Despised, 37, 39.

Unloving, 44-46.

Loving, 44-46.

Censorious, 39.

Penitent, 38.

A debtor with nothing to pay, 42.

A debtor with nothing to pay, 42.

Rebuked by our Lord, 44-46.

Commended by our Lord, 44-46.

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