

Big Debt Worshipers

Luke 7:36-50

10-19-08

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Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. 37 When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, 38 and 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, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

39 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."

40 Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said.

41 "Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

43 Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

44 Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? 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. 45 You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. 47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven — for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

48 Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

49 The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

50 Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

1 John 4:19-21

We love because he first loved us. 20 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

21 And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

Matt 22:37-40

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." "And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

I was shocked, confused and bewildered as I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all, by the lights or its décor

But it was the folks in Heaven that made me sputter and gasp
The thieves, the liars, sinners, alcoholics, and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade who swiped my lunch money
twice.

Next to him was my old neighbor who never said anything nice.

Herb, who I always thought was rotting away in Hell
Was sitting pretty on Cloud Nine looking incredible well.

I nudged Jesus, What's the deal? I'd like to hear your take.
How did all these sinners get up here? God must have made a
mistake.

And, why is everyone so quiet and somber? Give me a clue.
Hush child, He said, they are all in shock, no one thought they would
see you.