

**THE LIFE OF CHRIST IN THE GOSPELS**  
Class #175 – Tuesday PM November 6, 2007

***It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.***

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

**Isaiah 55:11** So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Last 3 events in the Life of Christ

1. Reproached the inhabitants of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum because they rejected Him despite the concentration of miracles performed in them.



2. He reproached the religious leaders and thanked the Father for hiding His plan from them because they considered themselves more highly than they out to think with their wisdom and education.
3. He issued an invitation to trust in Him as their teacher – as their Messiah - as opposed to the religious leaders and Rabbis of the day.

Now he's invited to a dinner party by one of the religious leaders - a Pharisee named Simon.

Simon is not positive at all – he is an arrogant skeptic.

**Luke 7:36-50** Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him,

Pharisees were a religious party that governed the religious life of Israel.

Pharisees regulated all public worship to include sacrifices and prayer.

Pharisees were the most influential religious leaders of the day.

➤ Was requesting - ἐρωτάω – EROTAO –

- Jesus received more than one invitation.
- We don't know how many times this Pharisee invited the Lord to a dinner party at his house, but we do know the Lord waited until the proper time, in accordance with the Father's will, to go.

**POD: Timing is everything in the spiritual life.**

- You may receive an invitation to do something which is acceptable, but the timing isn't right.
- You're not going to miss out on anything because the Lord will give you another opportunity in grace.

**POD: A right thing must be done in a right way at the right time.**

- When the right time came, Jesus went.

... and He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined.

- **Reclined** – **κατακλίνω** – “To recline or to sit down at dinner”

*Remember, timing is everything – and God directs all things.*

<sup>37</sup> And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner;

- **Sinner** - **ἁμαρτωλός** – **HAMARTOLOS** – “Sinner”

- This woman refrained from sacrificing in the temple.
- She led a life of sin.
- She was well known for it in the city because even the Pharisee was aware of it – she was a prostitute.

... and when she learned that He was reclining in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume,

The implication is that she already knows the Lord.

- **Learned** - **ἐπιγινώσκω** - **EPIGNOSKO** - “To find out”

- She found out that Jesus was having dinner at this Pharisee's house – so she decides to go see Him.
- This was not an uncommon thing in the ancient world.
  - If a Rabbi was invited to a formal dinner party, it was acceptable to stop in to listen to the conversation.
  - It's not out of place for a man to do this, but for her it is, especially since she is known as a prostitute.
  - It's an act of faith for her.

Prior to the dinner party she went home to secure an “alabaster vial of perfume.”

- **Alabaster vial** - **ἀλάβαστρος** – A container the shape of a small Tiffany's single bud vase.
  - Long fragile neck
  - The top is sealed.
- This particular vessel is filled with **μύρον** – **MURON** – aromatic oil.
  - This oil is very expensive.
  - The oil is saved for a very special occasion.
  - The oil is used only once!
  - To use the ointment, you actually break the neck of the bottle.
- Once she secures this vial, she makes haste for the Pharisee's house.

38 and standing behind *Him* at His feet,

στᾶσα ὀπίσω παρὰ τοὺς πόδας αὐτοῦ

➤ **Standing** - ἵστημι – HISTEMI – “to stand still; to set up”

*Him* is not present in the Greek.

Corrected translation “**and set up at His feet**”

She positions herself - she is not standing- she is kneeling at His feet.

➤ **weeping** – κλαίω

*Tears are flooding from her eyes as she is positioned at His feet.*

*Continually weeping she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head,*

- This communicates she had no covering which was customary in that day for women.
- Exposed and unbound hair on a woman was considered shameful – indicative of a prostitute.

*... and kissing His feet – καταφιλέω – Constantly showering Jesus’ feet with her tears.*

*... and anointing them with the perfume.*

NOTE what she’s doing here - -

✚ *weeping* – κλαίω

✚ *wiping* - ἐκμάσσω

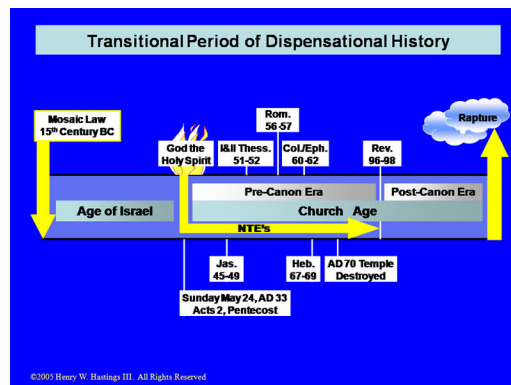
✚ *kissing* - καταφιλέω

✚ *anointing* – ἀλείφω

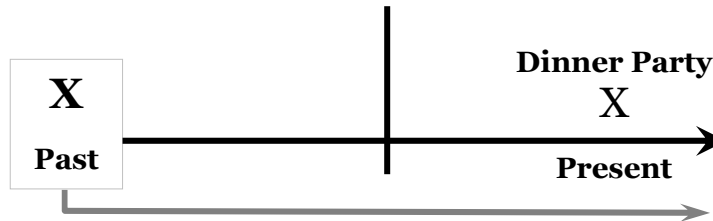
} **Worship!**

- She loves Him and that love is compelling her to worship Him in such a manner.
- She loves Him because He first loved her!
- She has already been forgiven her sins by the Lord prior to the dinner party.
- Her worship of Jesus is being motivated in response to the forgiveness that He has given her.

48 Then He said to her, “Your sins have been forgiven.”



- **have been forgiven** - ἀφίημι –APHIEMI – The *perfect tense* describes an event that occurred in the past with existing results in the present time.
- The present time existing result is the dinner party when Jesus says, “**Your sins have been forgiven.**”
- The event that occurred in the past was her faith in Jesus Christ prior to her arrival at the dinner party.



<sup>50</sup> And He said to the woman, “**Your faith has saved you; go in peace.**”

- **has saved you** - σώζω – SOZO - She was saved in the past with existing results - she continues to be saved.
- She is worshipping the Lord because her faith in Him saved her from a life of sin and now she is at the Savior’s feet because she loves Him!

*Continually* weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet, and anointing them with the perfume.

<sup>39</sup> Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner.”

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Conditional Clause
  - Protasis εἰ + εἶμι
  - Apodosis ἄν + γινώσκω

“If this man were a prophet [*the Pharisee assumes that He is not*] He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner.”

*The woman is worshipping and the Pharisee is judging.*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our secret sins - the things we think are laid bare before the Lord</li> <li>• You cannot hide anything from the Lord.</li> <li>• Jesus knew what Simon thought, yet He deals with him graciously.</li> </ul> |
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<sup>40</sup> And Jesus answered him, “**Simon, I have something to say to you.**” And he replied, “Say it, Teacher.”

- Now we learn why the Lord responded to this evening’s invitation as opposed to others - it was the right time.

<sup>41</sup> “A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup> “When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?” <sup>43</sup> Simon answered and said, “I suppose the one whom he forgave more.” And He said to him, “You have judged correctly.” <sup>44</sup> Turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet [*customary treatment for guests*], but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. <sup>45</sup> You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet.

<sup>46</sup> You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume. <sup>47</sup> For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, **have been forgiven**,

**Forgiven** - ἀφίημι - *Her sins have been forgiven in the past with the result that she is forgiven right now.*

... for she loved much;

- Her love for the Savior compelled her to go to that party even if she had to face religious ridicule.
- Her love compelled her to position herself at the feet of her Savior, to weep, to clean His feet with her tears, to wipe His feet with her hair, and to anoint His feet with very costly perfume.

*She wept because she was forgiven much.*

*She knew the honor He was due!*

... but he who is forgiven little, loves little.” <sup>48</sup> Then He said to her, “Your sins have been forgiven.” <sup>49</sup> Those who were reclining *at the table* with Him began to say to themselves, “Who is this *man* who even forgives sins?” <sup>50</sup> And He said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Women played a very important role in the Life of Christ.

**Luke 8:1-3** Soon afterwards, He *began* going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him, <sup>2</sup> and *also* some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, <sup>3</sup> and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.

Women facilitated the spreading of the Word – early missionary work.

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*All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.*