

*This is NOT Mary of Bethany (John 12:1-8 or Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9; Luke 8:2).*

**Luke 7:36 - 50 (NLT)** <sup>36</sup>One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. <sup>37</sup>When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume.

- *The woman brought an alabaster jar of expensive perfume. Alabaster jars were carved, expensive, and beautiful. Such jars were made from a translucent, compact gypsum, carved with a long neck that was to be broken off when the contents were poured out.*
- *The ointment came for Northern India and was made of pure nard. It was worth about a year's wages. Nard is made from a plant that grows in the Himalayas and is used as ointment or perfume. Cost: 300 denarii = \$54,509 in U.S. dollars.*
- *This jar of perfume may have represented her life savings*

<sup>38</sup>Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them.

- *She came publicly to Jesus and kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them. She anointed Jesus feet with her perfume; her tears fell on his feet she wiped them off with her hair. Usually perfume was used to anoint the head. To wash Jesus' feet was a sign of deep humility—it was the job of a slave.*

<sup>39</sup>When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!"

- *The woman is identified in the text as a "sinner". Gk. [hamartolos], meaning either that she was possibly a prostitute or the wife of a man whose employment was considered dishonorable.*

<sup>40</sup>Then Jesus answered his thoughts. "Simon," he said to the Pharisee, "I have something to say to you."

"Go ahead, Teacher," Simon replied.

<sup>41</sup>Then Jesus told him this story: "A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other.

<sup>42</sup>But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?"

<sup>43</sup>Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt."

"That's right," Jesus said.

- ***GREAT PARABLE: Lord, please reveal to us our blind spots!***

<sup>44</sup>Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn't offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

<sup>45</sup>You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet.

<sup>46</sup>You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume.

<sup>47</sup>"I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love."

<sup>48</sup>Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven."

<sup>49</sup>The men at the table said among themselves, "Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?"

- They did not grasp the fact that Jesus was God and therefore did have the authority to forgive sins.

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

- *This woman’s humility did not save her, nor did her tears or her expensive perfume. It was her faith, her complete trust in the only one who could forgive her sins and save her.*
- *Ephesians 2:8-9 says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast”*
- *When people trust Christ, he changes their lives, gives them freedom from sin, and allows them to go in peace—true peace, peace with God. Like so many whom Jesus had healed, this woman had a new life and a new reason for living!*
- **Luke 8:48 (NASB)** *And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.”*
- *Sola fide which means “faith alone” (The Latin word sola means “alone” or “only”)*

**Galatians 2:16 (KJV)** <sup>16</sup>Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

*Essential Christian doctrines (5 Latin phrases):*

*sola scriptura—Scripture alone*

*sola fide—faith alone*

*sola gratia—grace alone*

*sola Christus—Christ alone*

*sola Deo gloria—for the glory of God alone.*

**Things to ponder:**

1. She was not forgiven because she loved, but loved because she was forgiven.
2. The Pharisee was blind to the grace and compassion of Jesus for the woman.
3. We need to learn to see others the way that Jesus sees them.

**Monday Morning Moment:** *“What have you REALLY done for Jesus lately?!”*

**Luke 7:46 (NLT)** <sup>46</sup>You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume.