

The Tears of a Sinner
Luke 7:36-50

Have you ever cried over something you have done wrong? In other words have you wept over your sin? Has your life of sin brought you to the point this woman was at. Not many of us have even thought of weeping over our own sin. Some of us have wept over our children's sin, and maybe even over a relatives or a spouses sin, but what about your sin. We are all sinners you know. Whether we like to think so or not, we are sinners.

This woman we have just read about was a prostitute. We do not know much about her except she led a very sinful life. That was how she survived. What do you think she was like? Was she married, maybe she was divorced, maybe her husband was dead, maybe she had children to support, maybe she was just a plain sinful woman.

Does it matter to this story, no it does not. What matters is she knew she was a sinner and that had brought her to her knees. She was so ashamed of that sin, she sought forgiveness from Jesus. I think that she must have heard Jesus teach at some time, yet we do not know for sure. But in some way she was drawn to Jesus, so much so she was willing to be ridiculed by the others around Jesus.

Jesus knew about her past life. He also saw her heart, He knew the sorrow she felt, and the sins she had committed. He knew the torment she was going through because of her sin. He did not shun her, he had compassion on her. He understood what it took for this woman to come to Him.

Have you been dropped to your knees by your sin? Have you felt the need to be forgiven for it? Sin is not to be made light of. It is the reason Christ went to the cross and suffered a horrific death, for your sin. Your sin. Not his sin, for there was none. Sin is that important. It separates us from God. I don't want to be separated from God, do you?

Jesus was invited into the Pharisee house. The Pharisee did not offer Him the minimal act of hospitality, having a servant wash His feet. A Pharisee who considered himself better than most, did not do that for Jesus. Yet a sinner did. Does tell us something about the Pharisee as well as the woman?

Jesus told Simon a parable.

There were two men that owed money to a moneylender. They could not pay it back when it was due. The moneylender forgave the debts of both men. One of the men owed a much greater amount than the other. Now Simon who would you think was the most grateful? Simon said; the one that owed the greater amount. Jesus said you are right.

This woman sinned greatly, and was more grateful than the Pharisee could have ever been. There was so much that she had to be forgiven for. She knew that. The Pharisee on the other hand did not know that they were sinners. In many ways they were more of a sinner than the woman. At least she knew she was a sinner, and sought forgiveness, but they were hypocrites.

Most likely the Pharisees were out to entrap Jesus not learn from Him. They not only did not wash His feet, they did not anoint Him. They showed no signs of hospitality towards Him. It took a sinner to show them just who they were. The Pharisees thought that if Jesus was a prophet he would know what kind of a woman was touching him. He would tell her to go away.

Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he said to them, you did not show me the smallest sign of hospitably. This woman did. You did not give me water for my feet, but she washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You did not put oil on my head but she poured perfume on my feet. Therefore I tell you her many sins have been forgiven. She loved much because she felt the peace of God within her, and was therefore able to express that love.

Her love and forgiveness did not come by any other way but by her faith. Her sins were forgiven because of her faith not the other way around. Jesus tells us a few good lessons in this parable. First of all, no one is beyond Gods forgiveness if he truly believes. No one is too bad to be forgiven. No one is too good not to be forgiven.

Have you judged someone as the Pharisees had? Have you shunned someone for any reason what so ever? Have you not showed hospitality to some one because they did not meet your standard? Have you been on the receiving end of that attitude? Have you been shown that you are not worth the time or effort to be invited to take part in a party or dinner that was being held? Or any type of gathering at all. Have you tried to rent a home and been refused because you were different. Have you ever watched the face and eyes of someone that had been rejected by others? Have you ever felt that you were not included in the human race because you were different?

Have you talked about someone with others? (gossip). Have you told stories (lies) about someone and caused them or and others pain? Have you taken the wrong change, (more) than you should have gotten and said nothing?

At work have you taken pens, pencils, rubber bands, or credit for someone else's work? All of theses are not major sins; they are the kind of sin that can and will destroy you or someone else if they are not changed.

You might not go out and rob a bank, or kill someone, or even get drunk and cause someone or our selves harm, but sin is sin is sin. It makes no difference how big or small you think a sin is, it is still a sin. We are all sinners. We all need forgiveness. You might not think you are as bad as your neighbor, but you are in Gods site as long as we are sinners.

What do you do about it? You believe that Christ is the Son of God. That He died, and was raised on the third day, that he is coming back, and that he left you with the Holy Spirit as a helper to be able to follow Christ's example.

Then you get down on your knees and ask to be forgiven. In other words confess to God what your sin is. Then you begin to realize just how broken you really are, and only He can put us back together again. Then you need to change. Change the way you are thinking and living. Start living a life based on what God had asked us to be. "Be Holy as I am Holy." You can't you think. Well if you strive to that end you might be surprised just how close you may come with the help of the Holy Spirit.

So remember we are all sinners. We all need to be forgiven. We all need to repent. Then we like that woman will know true peace with God and with our selves. You all have seen the plain cross here at the front of the church. I bet you have been thinking, what is that for? So I'll tell you. There is basket of broken pieces of pottery and a tube of glue. Take a broken piece up to the cross and glue a piece to the cross and leave it there. God will heal our brokenness. That is if you let Him.

Let us pray

Lord we ask that your Holy Spirit bring us to the place of repentance and forgiveness. Help us to give to you all our brokenness so we may live in peace with you till you bring us home. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen