

*“2 Sinners & 1 Savior!”*

## 1. **Announce:**

- 1.1. *Mother's Day:* Story(back page).

## 2. **Intro:**

- 2.1. Jesus sometimes ate with *Tax collectors & sinners* & sometimes ate with *Pharisees*. {So, Simon the Pharisee asks him for dinner, & Jesus accepts!}
- 2.1.1. **Q:** So why did Simon invite Jesus over for dinner? {a} he wanted to get to **know Him better** {b} he wanted to get some **new evidence** against him.
- 2.1.2. **Q:** Have you ever been invited over to dinner & then find out **“you”** were the main course?
- 2.2. According to the Harmony of the Gospels, just before this event Jesus just said **Mt.11:25-30(read)**.
- 2.2.1. **Maybe there she responded to the gospel & trusted Christ?**
- 2.2.2. And now she was coming to express her **love & worship**.
- 2.2.3. **Having taken His yoke, she came to express her love.** (Warren Wiersbe)
- 2.2.4. Old life over, new life begun (implied by her actions) [i.e. “she gets it!”]
- 2.2.4.1. **Her sins are forgiven; she loved much; your faith has saved you.**
- 2.3. **Outline:** [1] **The Woman a Sinner!** [2] **Simon the Sinner!** [3] **Jesus the Savior!**
- 2.3.1. Let's meet 2 people who are at the **North & South Pole** of the “social scale of life”.

## 3. **THE WOMAN A SINNER! (36-38;48-50)**

- 3.1. **Her Sin!** (36,37a)
- 3.2. **She was a women of the night.**
- 3.2.1. She worked Galilee's **“Red Light District”**.
- 3.3. Don't confuse this story with *Mary Magdalene* or *Mary of Bethany*.
- 3.3.1. **Mary Magdalene** – had 7 demons(Lk.8:2) but wasn't a prostitute.
- 3.3.1.1. Church history 1<sup>st</sup> records this teaching in **591ad** by **Pope Gregory the Great**, at an Easter sermon he gave in which he declared that the prostitute of Lk.7 was Mary Magdalene of Lk.8
- 3.3.1.1.1. **The Vatican finally cleared this up in 1969, saying there was no reason to make Mary a repentant harlot.**<sup>1</sup>
- 3.3.1.2. Nor was she married to Jesus, nor had children w/Him, nor did they intermarry w/the French Royal line!!!
- 3.3.1.2.1. **(According to Dan Browns “Da Vinci Code”)**
- 3.3.1.3. **I read an article “Christians: Embrace the Code!” [explain]**

<sup>1</sup>Erwin Lutzer; pg.45; The Da Vinci Deception.

- 3.3.2. **Mary of Bethany** - did a similar act(anointing Jesus feet w/an alabaster flask w/costly ointment) at a Simon's house(who was previously a leper)[which means he couldn't have been a Pharisee] (Mt.26:6-13)
- 3.3.2.1. **Timing different; results different(why wasn't it used for the poor), this one was done "for his burial"**.
- 3.4. (37) She came in by a **curious custom** of the time that allowed **strangers** to enter a house uninvited at a feast, especially beggars seeking a gift.<sup>2</sup>
- 3.5. **Her Sacrifice!** (37b)
- 3.6. **She brings an expensive alabaster jar of perfume to Jesus.**
- 3.7. The flask was of **alabaster**: a very light stone, usually white or yellow.
- 3.7.1. Named alabaster, from the town in Egypt where it was chiefly found.
- 3.8. **Her Sorrow!** (38a)
- 3.9. **She weeps over her sin.**
- 3.10. She was ashamed of her **past** - **but not of her tears nor her Savior!**
- 3.11. She was in the house with Jesus & that's all that mattered!
- 3.12. **Her Service!** (38b)
- 3.13. **She anoints Jesus' feet.**
- 3.14. Faith produced love, love produced service!
- 3.14.1. Love finds ways of service & surrender.
- 3.15. **True faith shows itself in love & worship!**
- 3.16. **Her Salvation!** (47,48, 50)
- 3.17. **She experiences forgiveness.**
- 3.18. Jesus responds to this woman's **act of worship**...with **forgiveness!**
- 3.18.1. Notice Jesus doesn't say, "*God forgives you*" instead Jesus claimed to forgive her sins.
- 3.19. Verse 47 does not teach *salvation by works*. Vs.50 makes it clear she was *saved by faith*. - Her works were the **proof** of her faith – And, they were motivated by **love**.
- 3.19.1. Gal.5:6(NIV) "**The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.**"
- 3.19.2. "So we are not saved by **love**, nor by **service**; we are saved by a **faith** which produces love, which naturally results in service!"
- 3.20. The woman was **not forgiven** because of her **love**; **rather**, she loved because she was **forgiven**.<sup>3</sup>
- 3.21. Because she was *justified by faith*, she had **peace with God!**
- 3.21.1. Jesus offered her **rest**, & she had **received it** by faith!

<sup>2</sup>Robertson, A. *Word Pictures in the New Testament*.

<sup>3</sup>Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures*.

- 3.22. This morning, maybe you can relate to this woman?  
 3.22.1. Perhaps you are not highly regarded, or cultured, or well-to-do(as the Pharisee); but are loving, devoted, & grateful.
- 3.23. Note also she had **complete assurance** of **perfect pardon & resulting peace!**  
 3.23.1. Q: Was that just for her, or a promise to any who would come to Christ?  
 3.23.2. Q: Have you experienced that **blessed assurance**?
- 3.24. As Christ's love seemed to be a **giant magnet** attracting to itself steel shavings, at the same time it was failing to make any effect on some plastic shavings next to it.<sup>4</sup>

#### 4. **SIMON A SINNER! (39-47)**

- 4.1. **Simon's Assumptions!**
- 4.2. We catch now Simon's attitude(doubts) about Jesus. (39)  
 4.2.1. Simon says this "*sotto voce*" (sato-vochee) (Italian for "under the voice")  
 4.2.1.1. In a soft voice, so as not to be overheard.
- 4.3. [1] A prophet should be able to have **special insight** into a **person's character**.
- 4.4. [2] A prophet would **not knowing** let an **immoral woman** anoint his feet.  
 4.4.1. **Conclusion:** Jesus was not a prophet!
- 4.5. Simon mistook Jesus' way of rescuing from sin for failure to **keep sin at a distance**.  
 4.5.1. Remember, **Pharisee** isn't a Greek word, but adapted from a Hebrew word meaning "separation".  
 4.5.1.1. Their order was all about holding the people from mixture w/idolatrous peoples.  
 4.5.2. "*Come on, aren't you a little bit uncomfortable with a hooker smothering Jesus' feet with kisses?*"  
 4.5.3. One **saved from sin** by love is softened by love; but one **kept from sin** by pride is hardened by pride!<sup>5</sup>
- 4.6. To show His "*true prophetic insight*" he shows **special insight** into **Simon's** character via a parable!
- 4.7. **Simon's Parable!**
- 4.8. Jesus is saying I know you're looking at this woman a great sinner & yourself as a little sinner.  
 4.8.1. Like the other Pharisee who prayed "**I thank you lord I am not like other men!**"
- 4.9. The creditor forgave them **both!**...so **both** should have been **grateful**.
- 4.10. **I suppose** – reveals still no conviction!
- 4.11. Simon demonstrates little respect & affection for Jesus, thus he will receive little forgiveness. (Outline Bible)

<sup>4</sup> Adapted from Griffith Thomas; pg.132

<sup>5</sup> Griffith Thomas; pg.133

- 4.12. **Simon's Debt!**
- 4.13. Simon said to himself, "*she is a sinner*", but needed to say, "**I am a sinner!**"
- 4.13.1. Jesus argument: both Pharisee & woman were **sinner**!
- 4.13.2. There was **one way** for both - via **forgiveness**.
- 4.13.3. And there are **2 ways** to love...**little & much!**
- 4.14. **The woman** had outward sins of *Commission* which she recognized. **Simon** had sins of *Omission*. He didn't treat Jesus w/either kindness or hospitality.
- 4.14.1. **She** was guilty of sins of the **flesh**.
- 4.14.2. **Simon**, sins of the **spirit** (a critical attitude, a hard heart!)
- 4.14.2.1. Paul says in 2 Cor.7:1 "**let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.**"
- 4.15. (44-47) He talks to Simon over His shoulder.
- 4.16. Interesting, to which of these did Jesus direct His **severest words**? To the gross sins of the flesh, **or** against insincerity & uncharitableness.
- 4.16.1. "**Cold-hearted selfishness** is the most terrible defect in human nature!"<sup>6</sup>
- 4.16.2. **Penance, not pride, leads to pardon!**
- 4.17. Each should have been grateful based on what he had been forgiven, not based on comparing his debt w/the debts of others. (Shepherd's Notes pg.29)
- 4.17.1. **Each of us** is in debt to God, & is unable to pay because we are **spiritually bankrupt**.
- 4.18. The 2 debts represent not the **amount** of sin, but the **awareness of guilt!**
- 4.18.1. He was walking around with only **\$50 bucks** of conviction!
- 4.18.1.1. Some walk around with only **\$5** of conviction!
- 4.19. The degree of our love & gratitude depends on our own **estimate** of the amount of that debt.
- 4.19.1. You **don't** have to be a **sinful reprobate** in order to appreciate the love of God.
- 4.20. A man could be **less** a sinner than another, but may be **more conscious** of his sin.
- 4.20.1. Then he would "*love Christ most!*"
- 4.21. Simon saw himself as pure and righteous and therefore did not need to treat Jesus in a special manner. In fact, he did not even extend to Jesus the normal courtesies of that day.<sup>7</sup>
- 4.22. **Simon's Blindness!**
- 4.23. This could have been a life-changing experience for Simon, but he was too blind to see the truths involved.

<sup>6</sup> ibid; pg.135

<sup>7</sup>Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures.*

- 4.23.1. Simon, you are thinking, if I were a prophet, I should be able to know/perceive her. **Simon do you see her?**
- 4.23.2. Simon you **cannot see yourself, Me, or the woman.**
- 4.23.3. You cannot see this woman as she **is**, you can only see her as she **used to be!**
- 4.23.4. **Q: Is there anyone you hold in these same shackles of their past in our church today?** (They shouldn't be serving!)
  - 4.23.4.1. **Can you look with Christ anointed eyes?** [i.e. blind to what she was!]
- 4.24. The atmosphere at **Simon's house**(*no water, no kiss, no oil*) was just as disgusting to the soul of Christ as the atmosphere of **a brothel**...but again, **He went!**
- 4.25. **This morning, are you more like Simon rather than the woman?**
  - 4.25.1. **Q: Are you respectable, well-to-do, cultured, orthodox, of too good of taste to be wholly worldly – but nevertheless, lost sinners?**

## 5. **JESUS THE SAVIOR!**

- 5.1. **Q: Who was Jesus after in this story?** (pause)
- 5.2. **Q: Who does Jesus love in this story?** [both]
  - 5.2.1. **Behind the 2 sinners** stood the Savior: offering love, forgiveness, assurance, & peace.
  - 5.2.2. Jesus loved Simon just as much as he loved that woman. In Simon's house he sought to open his eyes, & lead him into the light.
- 5.3. Here we have a very religious man outside the kingdom of God, & an outcast finding forgiveness.
  - 5.3.1. Again the last became 1<sup>st</sup>, & the 1<sup>st</sup> last!
- 5.4. Notice, Jesus notices **neglect** & he values **adoration!**
  - 5.4.1. Oh, come let us adore him!

## Mother's Day

One afternoon a man came home from work to find total mayhem in his house. His three children were outside, still in their pajamas, playing in the mud, with empty food boxes and wrappers strewn all around the front yard.

The door of his wife's car was open, as was the front door to the house.

Proceeding into the entry, he found an even bigger mess. A lamp had been knocked over, and the throw rug was wadded against one wall. In the front room the TV was loudly blaring a cartoon channel, and the family room was strewn with toys and various items of clothing. In the kitchen, dishes filled the sink, breakfast food was spilled on the counter, dog food was spilled on the floor, a broken glass lay under the table, and a small pile of sand was spread by the back door.

He quickly headed up the stairs, stepping over toys and more piles of clothes, looking for his wife. He was worried she may be ill, or that something serious had happened. He found her lounging in the bedroom, still curled in the bed in her pajamas, reading a novel. She looked up at him, smiled, and asked how his day went.

He looked at her bewildered and asked, "What happened here today?"

She again smiled and answered, "You know every day when you come home from work and ask me **what in the world I did today?**"

"Yes" was his incredulous reply.

She answered, "Well, today I **didn't** do it."