

### WARM-UP

- Have you ever borrowed something that was later given to you as a gift? What did you feel?
- Tell us about a time when you visited a friend and were welcomed warmly into this friend's home.
- Have you ever done something embarrassing in front of many people? Share with us what happened.

**WORD** *"Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little."* **LUKE 7:47**

(Read also **LUKE 7:36–50**.)

Knowing the weight of our sin and how much Jesus has sacrificed to forgive us would help us understand the magnitude of His love for us. In this story, we will see how the sinful woman, despite being judged and condemned, showed everyone her love and respect for Jesus.

## 1 | The sinful woman expressed her devotion to Jesus.

*<sup>37</sup>And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, <sup>38</sup>and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hairs of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. LUKE 7:37,38*

It was customary in that day to greet guests with a kiss, offer water to cleanse their feet, and anoint them with oil. A woman—who was known as sinful—did these things when the host, Simon the Pharisee, failed to show Jesus the same courtesy (Luke 7:44–46). Historically, Jewish women never unbound their hair in public, but she used her hair to wipe Jesus' feet. What are some of the things you did to show Jesus the love and honor He deserves? What does 1 John 4:19 say about why we should love God?

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## 2 | The Pharisee expressed his judgment.

*Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." LUKE 7:39*

Simon the Pharisee knew that the woman was sinful and expected Jesus to stop her from coming to Him. He judged Jesus and could not understand why his guest, who was known as a great prophet, would allow Himself to be touched by the sinful woman. Sometimes, this is how we see Jesus and ourselves—that we are unworthy to come to Him because of His greatness. But Jesus allows us to come to Him even if we are still sinful and “unclean.” Was there a time you let your sin

stop you from coming to Jesus? What does Romans 5:8 say about God's love for us?

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### 3 | The crowd witnessed the magnitude of Jesus' grace.

*47"Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." 48And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." 49Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" 50And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." LUKE 7:47-50*

A woman who was judged and condemned by society received Jesus' forgiveness after realizing the weight of her sin. In the same way, we will only truly understand how much we are loved by God when we realize the magnitude of His grace—on what it took Him to forgive our sins. The grace witnessed by the crowd is the same grace that is available for us today. Take time to reflect and go back to the moment you cried out to God, confessed your sins, and asked forgiveness from Him.

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#### APPLICATION

- How do you show your love to Jesus? What can you do to show that love to others?
- Do you believe that there is no condemnation in Christ? What can you do to be more accepting of people around you?
- How can you extend forgiveness to people who have wronged you in the past?

