

Faith, Compassion and Love - Part 4

Luke 7





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This is Part 4 of the Series: Faith, Compassion and Love. Here's a Quick Review:

- The centurion that Jesus commended, understood that Jesus was under authority and therefore had authority. Jesus could speak a word according to his will, and it would be done.
- In asking God, we can be Humble and Bold rather than Proud and Timid.
- By raising the widow's son at Nain, Jesus identified with the prophets of old, Elijah and Elisha, continuing the story; reinforcing care for the vulnerable and demonstrating that God has come to help his people. God both delivers us from trouble and helps us in the midst of trouble. Our appropriate response is praise.
- Jesus' miracles and his preaching good news to the poor were the evidence that he was the one who was to come that John the Baptist expected.
- Jesus said that no one born of women is greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he. Why? John was connected to the old covenant and described himself as a friend of the bridegroom. The church is part of the new covenant and is described as both the bride and body of Christ. As members of the body, we are needed by and need one another.



The Key Passage: Luke Chapter 7:36-50 (NIV)



³⁶ When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷ A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. ³⁸ As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."



The Key Passage: Luke Chapter 7:36-50 (NIV) (cont.)



⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.”

“Tell me, teacher,” he said.

⁴¹ “Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii,^[a] and the other fifty. ⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”

⁴³ Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.”

“You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.



The Key Passage: Luke Chapter 7:36-50 (NIV) (cont.)



⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.” ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” ⁴⁹ The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” ⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”



This story reminds us of another woman who anointed Jesus' feet



John 12:1-3 (NIV)

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

Like the raising of the young man from the dead that Jesus performed in Nain, this story of Mary pouring perfume on Jesus's feet as an expression of love and gratitude to him for raising her brother from the dead, reminds us –

Jesus Gives Us Victory Over Death.



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This story in Luke Chapter 7 of a woman expressing her love for Jesus by anointing his feet illustrates this truth –

Jesus Gives Us Victory Over Sin.

Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

In Christ, Sin Has Lost Its Power.

In Christ, Sin Has Lost Its Penalty.

By Faith, We Are Saved and Have Peace: With God, Ourselves and Others.



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Hospitality 101

1 Peter 4:8-10 (NIV)

8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. 10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Hospitality helps people feel welcomed, honored and valued. How do you show hospitality?





SOCIETAL EXPECTATIONS

Hospitality provides basic courtesies expected in society.

When they are not given, people can be appalled and call it out





HOSPITALITY FAIL

Simon the Pharisee invited Jesus to his home for dinner but failed to provide a basic level of hospitality.

Luke 7:44 - Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.

Both of these acts would have been shocking to the guests who were in attendance.

Feet were dusty and dirty from travel and it was common courtesy to provide a means for feet to be washed.

Women in that culture did not loosen their hair in public.



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The Parable of the Moneylender



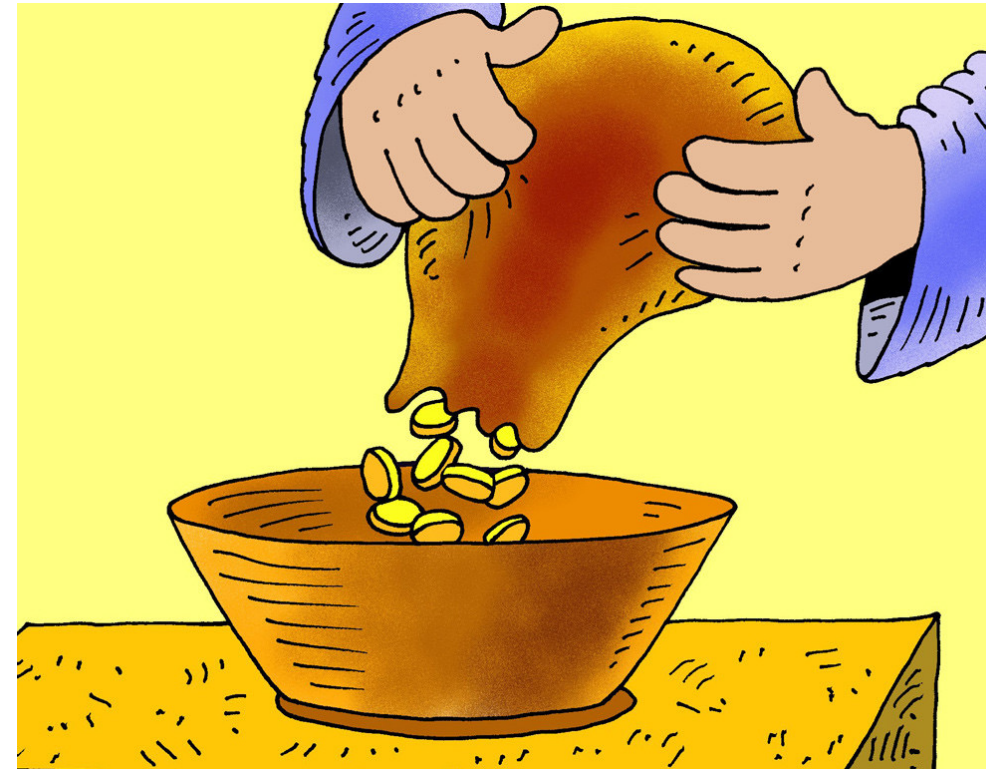
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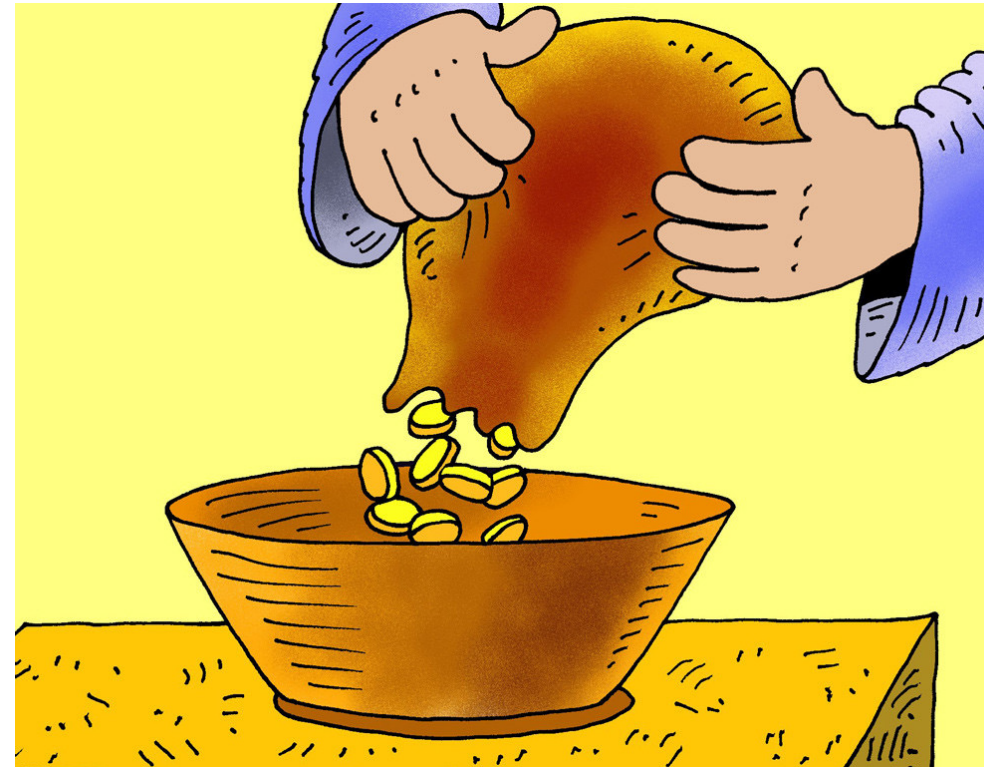
The Parable of the Moneylender (cont.)



A denarius had a value of about one day's wages. 50 denarii, therefore would be about 50 days or 2 months of wages. At an average salary of \$60,000/year today, 2 months wages comes out to \$10,000, not a trivial sum.

Simon didn't recognize his own need. He wrongly concluded that Jesus was not a prophet. With his judgmental attitude, he assumed that if Jesus was a prophet, he wouldn't allow a sinful woman to touch him.

Jesus's parable about the moneylender forgiving a large and small debt underscores the fact that we all owe a debt we cannot pay.



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Romans 3:23 New International Version

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Psalms 8:4-9 New International Version

4 what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?
5 You have made them a little lower than the angels
and crowned them with glory and honor.
6 You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their feet:
7 all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,
8 the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas. 9 LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!



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As We Witness And Share The Good News Of Jesus, We May Encounter People At Both Ends Of The Spectrum And In Between - People That Don't Recognize Their Need For God, And Those That Think They're Too Far Gone And God Will Reject Them.

God Extends His Mercy, Love, Compassion, Forgiveness, Healing, and Deliverance To All That Come To Him In Faith.

Ephesians 2:8-9
New International Version

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

Luke 5:31-32
New International Version

31 Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”



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