

## FORGIVEN MUCH, LOVED MUCH

Luke 7:37-50

***“...A woman...brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash his feet with her tears; and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil.” (v.37b-38)***

Here, in Luke 7, we have the story of a woman who came into a Pharisee's house where Jesus sat at the table. Somewhere out there, in the streets, this woman had heard the word of Christ and her heart had responded; somewhere out there the message of repentance and forgiveness, spoken by Him, had touched her heart and she had made His message her own.

This woman came into the presence of Jesus as a woman of bad reputation, a woman who had 'made a mess' of life, but here in His presence, tears flowed; tears of repentance, tears of thankfulness, tears of worship,, and tears of joy, as she experienced the presence of holiness, love, understanding and acceptance. She came to the feet of Jesus, carrying the intolerable burden of sin and guilt, and there experienced release as forgiveness flowed out from Jesus into her aching heart.

Now, no matter what it was going to cost her in the eyes of others, she fell at His feet in thankful worship and surrender. Faith had been birthed in her heart, faith that she was loved, cleansed, made whole in Him.

This woman would, no doubt, have been accustomed to rejection and scorn, to being despised and generally considered as worthless by many of the community in which she lived. But, here, at the feet of Jesus, as a repentant sinner, she received the peace of forgiveness and a new start in life.

This woman willingly lavished on Jesus the most precious thing she had, her alabaster flask of ointment. Jesus Christ had become her Lord and now she counted nothing else of value other than to honour Him.

What does the Lord Jesus desire from us?

He said of her ---*“She loved much” (v.47)*

The desire of the Lord Jesus, our Saviour, is that we love Him, and, in the rich joy of that love, walk on with Him in life's ongoing journey.

This woman's pathway to Christ may have been lined with stumbling blocks of subjection to mockery and ridicule, but, nevertheless, her choice was made, and she came to Him and went away with His personal word to her.

*"Your faith has saved you; go in peace" (v.50)*

The word of Christ, to all who will come to Him, is;

**'MY PEACE I GIVE TO YOU'** (John 14:27)