

The Gospel According to Luke- Part 3

WASHING JESUS' FEET

PART 5

Sinner or Saint

READ LUKE 7:37-39

INTRODUCTION

The woman who got down to wash Jesus' feet with her hair and tears is an account that many are familiar with. There is a humility that she has that we often seek to see in our own lives. This is a good thing to strive towards and it is one that Simon would've done well to be sensitive to as well. The comparison between these two people couldn't have been more different. On one hand, you had Simon, a Pharisee who would've been very familiar with the law of God and how the Jewish people were to serve the Lord and on the other, you had a prostitute. Someone who wouldn't have been allowed within the temple because of her profession.

As usual, we see the sinner who shows humility exposing the pride of the religiously pious pharisee. She washes Jesus' feet and in that action, she showed a respect and honor that was due to Christ that even some of the closest people to Jesus didn't understand. It was common to wash feet in these days and it wouldn't have been out of the ordinary to see it happening. Anointing someone's head was reserved for special people who had high honor. This woman anointed Jesus' feet with oil and showed her humility in that action.

Humility is not something that is honored as much as it should be. We shy away from it out of a desire to save face or some other sense of nobility. The truth is that we are to humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord (James 4:10) so that He can honor us in His way. We are to serve Him in everything and be contrite in our hearts. (Psalm 34:18) If He is Savior, if He is who we say we believe Him to be, there is nothing that we should be prideful about but, continually bowing down to serve Him and those around us knowing that He alone can save us from our sins.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think the significance was of a woman washing Jesus' feet? Would that be something you would do? Why or why not?
2. What was her reasoning for weeping and washing His feet? Reading the rest of the passage, what was the outcome?
3. Have you ever had the heart of the Pharisee? How does it feel? What is wrong with the attitude?
4. What does James 4:10 mean? How can we practically humble ourselves before the Lord? Why should we?
5. How does Psalm 34:18 encourage us in regard to this passage? How can we be better at having a humble heart? What practical steps can we take to show each other humility?

WRAP UP

Washing each other's feet may not be culturally acceptable anymore but that does not mean that we have a free pass to justify our sin in our hearts. We are to humbly approach the throne. Understanding that GOD is all powerful and all knowing and that He can do anything He likes in His sovereignty. That should change how we interact with one another and how we share Jesus with those who we may think are "untouchables".