

Anointing Jesus' Feet

Luke 7:36-50

MEMORY VERSE

1 JOHN 4:19

“We love Him because He first loved us.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A basin with water, a wash cloth, and a towel.

As many 8.5" x 11" pieces of white paper and pencils or crayons as the number of children in your class.

A ruler labeled "The Bible" and a crooked stick labeled "Man's Righteousness."

A dirtied glass covered with clean white paper.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Washing Feet

Ask for one volunteer to come up in front of the class. Explain that your volunteer is going to wash someone's feet. Allow the volunteer to pick someone to wash. Be prepared for a few snickers among the children; just explain that you are showing them something very important from our lesson today.

Have the “washee” take off his shoes and socks and let the “washer” get to work. When they are all done, ask each to explain to the class what it was like to wash and to be washed.

Explain to the class that they will learn today about a very special foot washing. **Jesus is worthy of all honor.**

LESSON TIME!

In Jesus' time there was a certain group of religious leaders called the Pharisees. The Pharisees believed that they could be perfect and go to heaven by keeping the Law of Moses. But they had also added many of their own rules and traditions to the law. The word Pharisee means "those who separate themselves."

The Pharisees separated themselves from the ordinary people because they believed the only way to be saved was to keep the law perfectly. They felt that they were better than the common sinful people. Simon was a prideful Pharisee. He thought that he was better than others because he was a Pharisee and kept the law. One day Simon asked Jesus to join him for a meal.

LUKE 7:36-38

Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat.

And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, 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.

The woman that came to see Jesus was a sinner and was probably known by everyone else as a sinner. Yet she washed and kissed Jesus' feet and anointed Him with oil. In Jesus' day it was important to be hospitable. The roads they walked on were very dusty, and they wore open toed sandals. It was customary for the

host to have his guest's feet washed. The host would also greet his guest with a kiss and anoint him with fragrant oil.

Simon was not a very good host because he did not pay Jesus these small respects. The lady that was a sinner was not Jesus' host or even invited to the feast, but she went out of her way to honor Him. **Jesus is worthy of all honor.** When someone is honored, that means that they are shown the respect they deserve. What can we do to honor Jesus?

What would you do if you invited Jesus into your home? Would you ignore Him? Would you want Him to do something for you, or would you serve Him? This woman gave a great example of what our attitude needs to be like when we are in the presence of Jesus. We need to worship Him in humility and honor Him.

Worthy of Honor

Pass out an 8.5"x11" piece of paper to each of your students. Ask them to write down (or draw a picture of) ways we can honor Jesus. Ask for volunteers to share with the class some of their ideas.

When the students are done, tack their pictures to the bulletin board. Be sure to send them home at the end of class.

LUKE 7:39

Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."

Simon, the Pharisee, knew the woman was a sinner. He would not touch her because it would be a violation of his traditions. He would be considered unclean. Simon thought, if Jesus were a true prophet from God, He would have known the lady was a sinner and

not touched her either. Simon did not realize that Jesus wanted sinners to come to Him so that He could help them and forgive their sins. Can we come to Jesus even when we sin?

There is a very important difference between religion and relationship. Religion is man's attempt to be good enough to go to heaven. But God requires perfection; and we can never be perfect. Relationship brings us into fellowship with Jesus through our faith in what He has done for us. At the cross, He took the penalty for our sins and opened the door to fellowship with God. Simon was very religious, but he did not really have a relationship with God. If he truly knew God, he would know that God's heart is for everyone to turn towards Him.

The good news is that we can come to Jesus at any time--no matter what sin we may have committed. Jesus loves us and wants us to come to Him so that we may receive forgiveness and walk in truth. If you have never come to Jesus and trusted in Him to save you, you can do that today. **Jesus is worthy of all honor.**

It is important to also note that Jesus never violated any of the Law of Moses contained in the Bible. At the same time, however, He did not want to keep the traditions the Pharisees had added to the scriptures, especially when those rules and traditions kept people from being helped. We see examples of this when Jesus healed people on the Sabbath day. Jesus was perfect in every way, but He refused to keep the traditions of man.

LUKE 7:40-43

And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it."

"There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

"And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"

Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged."

Jesus would often tell stories or parables to illustrate an important truth. He wanted Simon to understand that his heart was not right. The moneylender in Jesus' story loaned money to the two men. One man owed a little over a month's wages while the other man owed more than a year's wage. Since they could not pay the moneylender, he canceled (forgave) their debt; in other words, they did not have to pay him back. The man who owed more was more grateful because his debt was a bigger burden.

How would you have answered this question? God will forgive any sin when we ask Him to. There is no sin too great or too small that His grace cannot handle. Our response to Him is love because of how much He has forgiven us. We never deserve salvation. Simon thought he did because he was such a "good" person. But all of us have sinned and are in need of God's forgiveness (Rom. 3:23). When we are forgiven, we respond to Jesus in love and thanksgiving. **Jesus is worthy of all honor.**

LUKE 7:44-48

Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head.

"You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in.

"You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil.

"Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."

Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

Simon thought he was able to keep the whole law, that he was perfect and had no need of Jesus. The lady that was a sinner recognized her condition and knew she needed Jesus. The lady was like the man that Jesus spoke of before who owed a lot of money. She had sinned much and deserved death, as we all do; but just as the man's debt was cancelled, the lady's sin was cancelled when Jesus forgave her. She knew that **Jesus is worthy of all honor** and loved Him much because He forgave her sin. Simon did not think he needed Jesus; therefore, he loved Him very little. How much has Jesus forgiven you?

We have the privilege of showing Jesus honor. It is an honor for us to be able to serve Him. We need to place Him first in our heart and in our life. He is more important than anything else: our things, our friends, ourselves, etc. To give Jesus honor is to put Him first. We put Him first by obeying His Word and following what He wants for our lives.

Measuring Up

Before class begins, draw a straight line on the chalkboard, and label it "God's Standard." Explain to the class that God has told us all that we need to do in order to be pleasing to Him in His Word, the Bible. Show the class a ruler that you have pre-labeled "The Bible." Additionally explain that the Pharisees added their own rules to God's Word. Explain that the philosophies of man are

described in the Bible as filthy rags or a crooked stick. Show the class a crooked stick that has been pre-labeled "Man's Righteousness."

Line the crooked stick up to the line on the chalkboard and explain that it does not match God's Standard. Line the ruler up with the line on the chalkboard, and explain that it fits perfectly.

LUKE 7:49-50

And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

The people at the table wondered why Jesus was forgiving sins; they knew that only God could forgive sin. But Jesus had all authority to forgive sins because He is God. This is why **Jesus is worthy of all honor**.

Jesus told the woman her faith had saved her. Simon was mistaken in thinking that keeping the law could save him. We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus (Eph. 2:8). Simon's pride kept him from realizing he was a sinner just like the woman and needed Jesus' forgiveness too. Even though Simon tried to keep the law, his heart and thoughts were still evil. The Bible tells us if we break one commandment, we are guilty of all. For this reason, no one could ever keep the law to be saved; Jesus had to come to earth and die to provide forgiveness for our sins. When Jesus died, He took the punishment for our sins, and our debt was cancelled. Jesus gave His life for us. **Jesus is worthy of all honor**.

It is very important that we look at our own hearts and ask ourselves about receiving God's forgiveness. How are we going to go to heaven? Is it because our mom and dad are Christians? Is it because we come to church? Is it because we try really hard to do

what the Bible says? NO! As important as these things may be, they will not get us to heaven. Only asking Jesus into our hearts and believing in Him will save us. Have you asked Jesus into your heart?

Clean or Dirty?

Pre-prepare a glass for this illustration by taking a clear glass and making it really dirty on the inside. Wrap the glass with a piece of white paper so that none of the dirt can be seen.

Ask the class to tell you if the glass is clean or dirty. Take the paper off and show them that appearances can be deceiving. The glass is really very dirty.

Explain to the class that only Jesus can clean us from the inside out. Even if we appear clean on the outside, without Jesus we are never really clean.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanks for God's forgiveness and a commitment to honor Jesus. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.