

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

THE CASE OF TWO SINNERS – PART I

Luke 7:36-38 “When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, He went to the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. 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. 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.”

Luke 7:36 begins the story of two sinners. As you will learn through the next several devotions, one of them was painfully aware of their sinfulness and the other not. First, Luke introduces you to a Pharisee. Being a Pharisee, he was a proud man. He invited Jesus to dine with him in his home. The Bible verses do not tell us, but we can speculate that the Pharisee was quite pleased to have Jesus in his home due to his growing popularity.

While Jesus is dining with the Pharisee, a woman approaches Jesus. The Bible verse describes her as “one who lived a sinful life.” She came wanting nothing from Jesus. Instead, she came to wash His feet with her tears and anoint His feet with perfume. Truly, the woman’s action toward Jesus was one of humility.

Which of the two, the woman or the Pharisee, best describes you? Are you the poor, miserable sinner such as the woman. Or, are you more like the Pharisee, looking down on sinners and thinking highly of yourself?

The sinful woman knew who she was and what she had done. There is no indication she was fearful of Jesus, though she had every reason to be so. No, she came to minister to Him with her tears and perfume. She knew Him to be the one sent by God to take her sins upon Himself and in return to give her His righteousness. The hymn writer’s words apply to her, “Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me. . .” So, she knelt at Jesus’ feet, worshipped Him with tears to cleanse His feet and poured perfume on them as a final act of thankfulness.

Read on in the following devotions as the story continues. . .

Prayer: Father, I also am a poor, miserable sinner. I confess my sins to You and ask Your forgiveness for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure; Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill Thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to Thee for dress; Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.
(LSB 761)