

# Reading Luke in Lent

## Gospel of Luke 7:36-8:3

### A Sinful Woman Forgiven

36 One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him,  
and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table.

37 And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she  
learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of  
ointment,  
38 and standing behind him at his feet, weeping,  
she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head  
and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.

39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself,  
'If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is  
who is touching him, for she is a sinner.'

40 And Jesus answering said to him,  
'Simon, I have something to say to you.'  
And he answered,  
'Say it, Teacher.'

41 'A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.  
42 When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both.  
Now which of them will love him more?'

43 Simon answered,  
'The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.'  
And he said to him,  
'You have judged rightly.'

44 Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon,  
'Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet,  
but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.  
45 You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet.  
46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.  
47 Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much.  
But he who is forgiven little, loves little.'

48 And he said to her,  
'Your sins are forgiven.'

49 Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves,  
'Who is this, who even forgives sins?'

50 And he said to the woman,  
'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'



## Women Accompanying Jesus

- <sup>1</sup> Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages,  
proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God.  
And the twelve were with him,
- <sup>2</sup> and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities:  
Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out,
- <sup>3</sup> and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager,  
and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.
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## Reflection

The last section ended with a contrast between the Pharisees who reject God's purpose and the poor who welcome it. This is now illustrated in the house of Simon the Pharisee. Jesus tells a parable about the forgiveness of debt which Simon understands but as is often the case does not recognise as applying to the current situation. Here a woman, a sinner, anoints Jesus' feet and receives forgiveness. She has responded to Jesus call to repentance and forgiveness and Jesus responds with generosity. In the next part we learn that Jesus is able to go through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news because of the generosity of the women who accompany him and the twelve.

- When did you last take advantage of Christ's generous mercy and forgiveness?
- Who accompanies you on your journey with Jesus?

## Prayer

Compassionate God,  
you gather your people in prayer  
and lavish your gifts upon us anew.

Sinners that we are,  
you have forgiven us much.  
Grant that our experience of your pardon  
may increase our love  
until it reflects your own immeasurable forgiveness.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.  
Amen.