

Her Tears Fell

Luke 7:36-50

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **1 Peter 5:7** - “Cast all your anxiety [care] on him because he cares for you”
1. Psychiatrists, psychologists, counselors, etc. all earn their livelihoods off of the anxieties and cares of others.
 2. Our lesson text will reveal our Lord’s concern over human anxieties, cares, and tears.
 3. Lesson text: **Luke 7:36-50**
- B. While the word “tears” is used thirty-six times in the Bible, our lesson text provides the only recorded time that Jesus used the word “tears.”
- C. Background of lesson text.
1. Simon, a Pharisee, invited Jesus to share a meal with him in his home.
 - a. Simon would certainly regard himself as among the religious elite.
 - b. Since Jesus had dined with publicans and sinners, perhaps Simon would see himself as being religiously superior to Jesus.
 2. Jesus went to his house and reclined at the table.
 - a. This was a customary position at a formal meal.
 - b. Dinner guests would lie on couches with their heads near the table, propping themselves up on one elbow and stretching their feet out behind them.
 - c. Generally, guests would remove their sandals; then their feet would be washed by servants before they reclined at the table.
 3. A number of cultural and social courtesies were not extended to Jesus here. Did Simon feel that he was too good to treat Jesus as an equal.
 - a. **First** - Jesus feet had not been washed. Sandaled feet became dusty and dirty during the course of walking about.
 1. Simon could have washed them . . . But he had not.
 2. Simon could have had a servant/slave wash them . . . But he had not ordered anyone to do it.
 3. Simon could have provided a basin of water for Jesus to wash His own feet . . . But had not made any such provision.
 - b. **Second** – Simon had not given him a kiss of greeting and welcome.
 - c. **Third** – Simon had not provided any oil or perfume for the head of His guest.
 4. By contrast The woman had performed all three of these tasks.
 - a. Using the tears that fell from her eyes, she washed his feet. She used her very own hair to dry His feet.
 - b. She continued kissing His feet.
 - c. She poured perfume on the feet of our Lord.

HER TEARS FELL

A. Focus on this woman?

1. She is not the woman mentioned in Matthew 26:6-13, or Mark 14:3-, John 12:1-11
2. The woman may have been a prostitute.
3. How did she get into Simon's house?
 - a. Please bear in mind that a meal such as this was not a private affair; people could come in, sit around the edges, watch what went on, and listen to the conversation.
 - b. Thus, this woman could have gotten in, although her reputation would proceed her and she would not necessarily be welcome among this company of people. So it probably took great courage.
 - c. The woman brought an alabaster jar of perfume.
 1. Alabaster jars were carved, expensive, and beautiful. Such jars were made from a translucent, compact gypsum, carved with a long neck that was to be broken off when the contents were poured out.
 2. This jar held an expensive perfume. Many Jewish women wore a small perfume flask on a cord around their neck.
 3. This jar of perfume would have been valued very highly by this woman.
4. "Although the woman was not an invited guest, she entered the house anyway and knelt behind [Jesus] at his feet.
 - a. Because these people were reclining as they ate (7:36), the woman could easily anoint Jesus' feet without approaching the table.
 - b. She came intending to anoint Jesus with her perfume, but she began weeping, and as her tears fell on his feet . . . she wiped them off with her hair.
 - c. No doubt, this woman understood that Jesus was very special.
 1. Perhaps she, as a sinner, had come to Jesus with great sorrow for her sin.
 2. Or it could be that her sins were behind her and that though she "had lived a sinful life" (7:37), she had found forgiveness.
 3. Perhaps she had followed John the Baptist and had confessed her sins.
 4. She may have been in the crowds that had been following Jesus and had come to believe in him.
 5. Despite this woman's reputation, she came publicly to Jesus and kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them.
 6. Usually perfume was used to anoint the head, but she did not want to get any closer to the table. To wash Jesus' feet was a sign of deep humility -- it was the job of a slave. She risked more ridicule and rejection by doing what she did . . . But to her it was worth any risk.

B. She came with all her sorrows and an alabaster box. When words failed her, tears fell. Why/

1. Perhaps her tears fell for disappointed parents.
2. Maybe her tears fell for the marriage proposal that never came.
3. Perhaps tears fell for children she would never have.
4. May her tears fell for relatives that would never come to visit.
5. Maybe her tears fell for lost walks to the marketplace with her childhood friend.
6. Perhaps her tears fell for the never-ending chides and sneers of the townspeople.
7. Perhaps her tears fell because no one was there to ask, “How was your day?”
8. Perhaps her tears fell for nights she was sick and no one was there to comfort her.
9. Perhaps her tears fell for the meals she often ate alone.
10. Perhaps her tears fell for the nights she shared her bed with a man who would never be hers.
11. Perhaps her tears fell for all of her failures in trying to keep the Law of Moses . . . And how many of The Ten Commandments she had broken time and time again.
12. Perhaps he tears fell for all the times she wanted to change her life only to be turned away by the religious leads of her day.
13. Maybe her tears fell simply because all her days had ended and started the same way for as long as she could remember.
14. Perhaps her tears fell because of the women she had seen traveling with Jesus and had longed to be able to follow along with them . . . Feeling clean . . . Sensing self-worth . . . Serving . . . And happy.
15. Maybe her tears fell because of her deep sense of helplessness and hopelessness, sensing that Jesus was her last hope for forgiveness and wondering if He would reject her as others religious people.

C. When people respond to Jesus . . .

1. Sometimes they bring smiles, happiness and other outward expressions of joy.
2. Sometimes, like the woman in our lesson text, they bring tears realizing the numerous things they regret having done while realizing that Christ is now removing from them the guilt they have so long felt.
 - a. Overflowing love is the natural response to forgiveness and the appropriate consequence of faith.
 - b. But only those who realize the depth of their sin can appreciate the complete forgiveness God offers them. Jesus has rescued all of his followers, whether they were once extremely wicked or conventionally

- good, from eternal death. Do you appreciate the wideness of God's mercy? . . . Are you grateful for his forgiveness?
- c. Simon saw the sin . . . Jesus saw the sinner
Simon saw her offenses . . . Jesus saw her need
Simon saw the depth of her depravity . . . Jesus saw the magnitude of her love.
 - d. All people are sinners. That fact alone should keep anyone from feeling superior or self-righteous.
 - e. People also are loved beyond measure. That should keep anyone from feeling worthless or hopeless.
 - f. Is there someone whom you have been looking down upon, considering his or her sins as much more serious than your own? . . . Do you need to repent of any self-righteous attitudes toward anyone?
 - g. When you are confronted with the sins of others, remember Jesus' words of forgiveness for this woman. When you face the reality of your own sins, remember that God's mercy and forgiveness are just as real—and just as necessary—for you too.

CONCLUSION:

- A. How many days of sin do you need to be forgive of? A denarii was a days wage.
 1. 500 denarii = 500 days of wages 500 days of sins
 2. 50 deanrii – 50 days of wages 50 days of sins
- B. Never be too ashamed to:
 1. Never be too ashamed to . . . Confront the sins in your life.
 2. Never be too ashamed to . . . Repent of the sins in your life.
 3. Never be too ashamed to . . . Make things right with you fellow man . . .
And with Almighty God.
 4. Never be too ashamed to . . . Allow your obedient faith lead you to do the right thing.
- C. There is not further need to carry around burdens of sin that Christ is willing to remove and forgive you of.
- D. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**