



Drawing near to God

By Bill Subritzky

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” (James 4:8.)

The Pharisee and the Woman

Luke 7:36-50

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.

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.”

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.”

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.”

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.”

In the last verse of the Gospels it says, “there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.” (John 21:25.)

1. The fact that this story of the Pharisee and the woman has been included demonstrates its importance in God's eyes.

(A) The woman was a sinner, a prostitute.

(B) When she saw Jesus she felt His genuine love towards her and His true holiness and acceptance.

(C) Unlike most people she didn't come to Jesus for physical healing.

(D) She was drawn by His love.

(a) She had no theological degree, unlike the Pharisee, she was not educated.

(b) She was not “dying by theological degrees” (i.e. man's teaching).

(c) She had a simple child-like faith.

2. The Pharisee:

(a) Self-righteous.

(b) Treated Jesus as equal.

(c) Proud.

(d) Arrogant.

(e) He knew the law.

(f) He thought he was ok.

(g) He was well educated.

(h) He was full of his own importance.

3. Because of his pride and arrogance he failed to recognise Jesus as the Messiah.

4. She stood at the feet of Jesus behind Him weeping.

5. “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.” (Luke 7:39.)

6. Why did she weep?

- (a) She recognised the extent of her own sinfulness because she saw His holiness.
- (b) She sensed His love for her.
- (c) The Holy Spirit was convicting her.

7. As a result she began to show love for Him:

- (a) She began to wash His feet with her tears.
- (b) She wiped His feet with her hair of her head.
- (c) She kissed His feet.
- (d) She anointed Him with fragrant oil.

8. Very few people are prepared to confess, recognise and bring to the light all of their sinfulness. Most will do anything to hide their past sins.

9. She did not come to Jesus full of pride and arrogance, but in the fear of God.

10. The measure in which she humbled herself was the measure she was able to receive His love, forgiveness and healing.

11. We need to come to Jesus:

- (a) Not as wealthy people.
- (b) Not arrogant.
- (c) Not with pride.
- (d) Not with anger.
- (e) Not with deception in our hearts and lives.
- (f) But as sinners.

12. Then Jesus told the Pharisee the parable of the creditor with two debtors:

- (a) One owed him \$500, the other \$50.
- (b) Neither could repay him anything so he forgave them both.

(c) Then Jesus said, "Tell me therefore which of them will love him the more?"

13. Simon said, "I suppose the one for whom he forgave Him more."

Jesus said, "You have rightly judged."

14. He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman?"

I entered your house:

(a) 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.

(b) You gave me no kiss but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in.

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

15. "Therefore I say to you:

(a) Her sins, which are many, are forgiven for she loved much.

(b) But to whom little is forgiven the same loves little.

16. In contrast to the Pharisee she had truly humbled herself, therefore Jesus said:

(a) Your sins are forgiven.

(b) Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.

17. Love

The woman had followed the greatest commandment of the law. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." (Mark 12:30.)

If we love God absolutely then we will open up our heart fully to Him and then the light of God will flow into our whole spirit, soul and body.

The woman loved Jesus with all her heart and submitted herself totally to Him. She opened up herself by humbling herself and therefore receiving complete forgiveness for her sins. "Without one plea." (she made no excuses.)

Many people are afraid to open up completely to God in the way she did. They love little and therefore do not receive into their heart all the forgiveness which God offers. As a result they are not healed and set free.

The secret is total submission to God opening up ourselves entirely to His love and telling Him by word and action how much we love Him. We can then receive into our hearts the full forgiveness and love of God.

The more we love God, the more we are able to receive into our heart and soul and spirit His complete love and healing.

We need to actively tell God every day that we love Him with all our heart soul mind and strength. As we do so, our love for Him will grow and we will come into a greater revelation of His forgiveness and love for us which includes healing and deliverance.

Many people never receive their full healing because they are not prepared to confess their absolute and complete love of God as a Father. This is often the result a poor relationship with their own father.

For this reason they need to ask their natural father, if he is alive to forgive them for any wrong attitudes they have ever had towards him and tell him that they forgive and love him.. They should do this no matter what their father may have done to them.

By doing this they release themselves from the sins of their father and the effect of those sins on their life.

Anybody born-again believer do this with the help of the Holy Spirit. If their father is dead or they cannot find him, they should get before God and do ask God's forgiveness for their attitudes to their father and tell God that they forgive and love their father.

In this way the barriers between God and themselves will be come down and they will suddenly find a tremendous love for God. They are then able to receive into their heart His complete love, acceptance and healing deliverance into every part of them being.

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out all fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:18-19.)

18. Light of God.

Jesus said, "And this is the condemnation, that light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to light, lest his deeds should be exposed." (John 3:19-20.)

"But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." (John 3:21.)

If we cannot fully trust God by absolutely committing ourselves to Him and bringing everything to the light then we cannot have full faith for our healing and answers to our prayers.

The Apostle John wrote in his first letter, "This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

If we say we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:5-10.)

Remove all darkness out of our lives by confessing our sins fully, humbling ourselves before God and loving Him.

19. Trusting God.

"Trust in the Lord and do good; Dwell in the land and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart." (Psalm 37:3-4.)

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6.)

20. Praising and worshipping God

This is why we should praise and worship Him daily. Open up our heart and mind to Him. Read His Word. Wait upon Him and you will hear His voice.

By doing this we receive a greater anointing of God's power.

We can walk with Him and talk with Him. Our feet are covered with the gospel of peace. (Ephesians 6:15)

21. Married to Christ.

As we humble ourselves in the same way as the woman in the above Scripture, we have the revelation that we are married to Christ.

“Therefore, My brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you might be married to another, even to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.” (Romans 7:4.)

"For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh."

"This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church."
(Ephesians 5:30-32.)

22. Power of God.

We understand the mighty power of the Holy Spirit within us, the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

“And what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us to believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 1:19-20.)

His power permeates our whole being, our clothes our body and where we walk. We become living epistles of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 3:3.)

His power never ceases. It is always there. We realise we are kept by the power of God through faith in God. (1 Peter 1:5.)

23. We become partakers of the divine nature. (2 Peter 1:4.)

We begin to hear the voice of God by the Holy Spirit and to get His direction in our life.

24. Gifts.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit begin to operate in our lives and we become effective witnesses for Jesus Christ.

We receive healing and deliverance into our lives.

25. How do we do this?

(a) By Repentance!

(b) By turning 180° from darkness to light.

"Turn from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God, that you may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me." (Acts 26:18.)

26. Sin.

The Bible refers to the following sins which, if we practice, we will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?

Do not be deceived.

Neither fornicators (sex outside of marriage)

Nor idolaters (putting other things ahead of God)

Nor adulterers

Nor homosexuals

Nor sodomites

Nor thieves

Nor covetous

Nor drunkards

Nor revilers (cursing other people)

Nor extortioners (taking other people's money by threat)

will inherit the kingdom of God."

Colossians 3:8

Uncleanness (impurity)

Using filthy language

Dirty jokes

Licentiousness (indecent) e.g. pornography

(Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 5:3-4)

Galatians 5:20-21

Sorcery i.e. Witchcraft

e.g. Fortune telling: Horoscopes

Ouija boards

Drugs (wrong kind)

Charms

New Age e.g. worship of the creation

Spiritism – séances

Martial Arts i.e. Kung Fu, Aikido, Tae Kwon Do, Karate, Tai Chi, Judo (rooted in Taoism and Buddhism)

Druids Lodge

Hypnotism, Yoga, TM, ESP

Worship of the creation (Idolatry) (Romans 1:25)

Practicing...

Hatred

Contentions (quarrelsome, causing fights)

Jealousies

Outburst of wrath

Selfish ambitions

Dissensions (causing fights)

Heresies e.g. Jehovah Witnesses and Mormons

Envy

Murders e.g. deliberate unnecessary abortion

Revelries (wild parties)

Revelation 21:8

"The cowardly (refusing to follow Christ)

Unbelievers

Abominable

Murderers

Sexually immoral

Sorcerers

Idolaters

Liars

All the above shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone which is the second death." (The words of Jesus.)

28. The keys:

(a) Surrender! Surrender! Total surrender to God.

(b) The more we acknowledge the depth of sin that has been in our lives and the fact that God has forgiven us and has given us the gift of salvation the more we will love Him and be able to draw close to Him.

(c) Loving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.

(d) Loving your neighbour as yourself.

(e) Loving one another as Jesus loved us.

29. The Prayer.

Dear Heavenly Father I come to You in the mighty name of Your Son Jesus Christ. I confess my sins and I especially confess (name any sins). I repent from all sin. I will seek to follow and obey You all my life.

I receive Your love into my heart and thank You Heavenly Father in Jesus name for forgiving me.

I confess that I love You with all my heart, soul, mind and strength and I thank You now that Your healing love flows through my whole being to touch and heal me and I have been set free from sickness and disease through the cross of Jesus Christ. Amen.