

Where's that smell coming from?

Week 30 ~ Notes for October 9th

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Background

Subject	Matt	Mark	Luke	John
A woman anoints Jesus' feet	26:6-13		7:36-50	12:1-8
As well as some women			8:1-3	

This week we will follow the melodramatic 3-layer story of the interaction between Jesus, Simon (a Pharisee) and a woman (of "ill repute") and its implications for the concept and practice of forgiveness as reported by Luke

We will also note a similar story as reported in three of the four gospels.

Preparation

1. Read Luke 7:36-50 and 8:1-3 in NKJV, NRSV or similar and also in a contemporary version (MSG or similar)
2. Read Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8
3. Check over all four reports (Mt, Mk, Lk and Jn) and make a note of your answers to the following questions:
 - Where does the action take place in Mt, Mk, Lk, Jn?
 - When does it take place?
 - Where does the woman pour the ointment in the four stories?
 - What is the significance, if any, of the woman using her *hair* to dry Jesus' feet?
 - What complaint is made and by whom?
 - How does Jesus respond to the complaint?
 - How does the story conclude?
4. Read the Luke version as shown at below and note the formatting

Discussion

1. Is Luke telling the same story as the other gospel writers? What is the evidence for your conclusion? (Not too long on this one!)
2. How do you feel about the way Jesus treated the woman?
3. How do you feel about the way Jesus treated Simon? Do you think this was a private conversation or heard by everyone?
4. Imagine you are that woman. Why did you do this to Jesus in public? Describe your thoughts and feelings as the evening progresses.
5. Imagine you are Simon. Describe your thoughts and feelings as the evening progresses.
6. According to the story what SIX things didn't get or didn't appear to get done? How do feel about the three unstated ones (which you'll need to discover by reading between the lines)?

7. What is the principal lesson that you take away from this story?
8. What other lessons might be within it?
9. What connection (if any) do you see between Luke 7:36-50 and 8:1-3?

Luke 7:36-50, formatted to show structure

Introduction: One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, was there.

The woman acts: having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, She brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his (dirty, unclean) feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment.

Simon and Jesus speak: Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner.' Jesus spoke up and said to him, 'Simon, I have something to say to you.' 'Teacher,' he replied, 'speak.'

Jesus tells a parable: 'A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debts for both of them.

Jesus and Simon speak: Now which of them will love him more?' Simon answered, 'I suppose the one for whom he cancelled the greater debt.' And Jesus said to him, 'You have judged rightly.' Then turning towards 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 bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.'

Jesus talks to the woman: Then he said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.'

Conclusion: But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, 'Who is this who even forgives sins?' And he said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'