



## DO YOU SEE THIS WOMAN?

Seeing others through the lense of God's Grace

Pastor Keith Stewart

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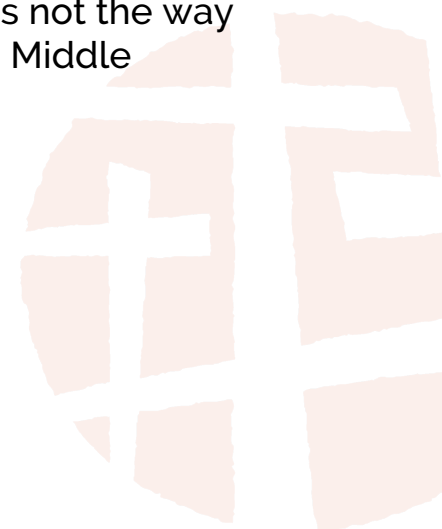
Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8

### *1. THE SETTING AND THE SCANDAL*

#### ☐ What doesn't happen

"This scene is filled with tension introduced by what did not happen. As Jesus entered the house, all the traditional courtesies were omitted...When these common acts of welcome were omitted, Jesus had the full right to say, 'I see that I am not welcome here!' and leave, flushed with anger. This is not the way He responded." - Dr. Kenneth Bailey, Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes

#### ☐ What does happen

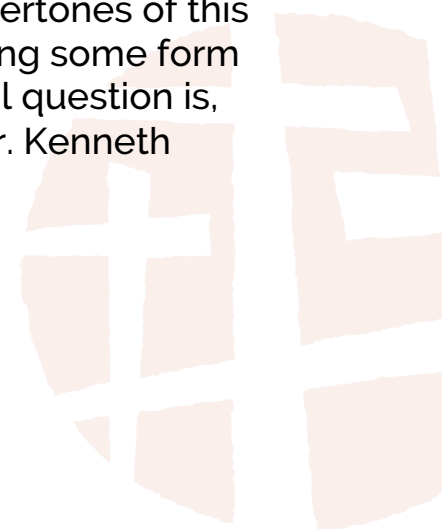


"She has heard from the community where [Jesus] was to be entertained... she has come prepared... Her intent is to pour the flask [of perfumed oil] on his feet... She witnesses the harsh insult that Jesus receives when he enters the house of Simon, as Simon deliberately omits the kiss of greeting and the foot washing. The insult to Jesus has to be intentional and electrifies the assembled guests. War has been declared and everyone waits to see Jesus' response... he absorbs the insult and the hostility behind it and does not withdraw... The woman is totally overcome." – Dr. Kenneth Bailey, Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes

- She kisses his dirty feet
- She breaks out in tears
- She lets down her hair

"No one around the room could have missed the overtones of this woman's gesture. By unloosing her hair, she is making some form of an ultimate pledge of loyalty to Jesus. The critical question is, Will he accept or reject this extraordinary act?" – Dr. Kenneth Bailey, Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes

- She anoints His feet



## ***2. THE CORRECTION IN THE PARABLE***

### **❑ Simon's flawed reasoning**

Premise: If Jesus were a prophet, He would know people's character.

If Jesus knew this woman was a sinner, He would have nothing to do with her.

Conclusions: Since Jesus has accepted this woman, He does not know her character.

Since Jesus does not know this woman is a sinner, He cannot be a prophet.

Since Jesus is not a prophet, I can reject Him, His message and ministry.



"So no one pities a person who associates with a sinner and becomes involved in the other's sins." Ben Sirach 12:14

"What does a wolf have in common with a lamb? No more has a sinner with the devout." Ben Sirach 13:17

"A prostitute is regarded as spittle...." Ben Sirach 26:22

❑ Jesus' bold confrontation

*I have something to tell you.* Luke 7.40

*Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?* Luke 7.41-42

*Those who are forgiven most love most.*

*They know what it's like to be hated for being what you are, so they're the ones who appreciate all the more being loved for who they are.*



### ***3. THE PROBLEM WITH PERCEPTIONS***

*Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon... Luke 7.44a*

"Jesus' attitude toward women . . . was one of the things that set him apart from other teachers of the time. Not only was Jesus remembered as treating women with respect, as equals in his circle; not only did he refuse to reduce them to their sexuality; Jesus was expressly portrayed as a man who loved women, and whom women loved." – James Carroll, Smithsonian Magazine

☐ Do you see this woman?

*Do you see this woman?* Luke 7.44b

The name "Simon" means "he has heard."

☐ Do you see me?

*Who is this who even forgives sins?* Luke 7.49



"The notion of God's love coming to us free of charge, no strings attached, seems to go against every instinct of humanity. The Buddhist eight-fold path, the Hindu doctrine of karma, the Jewish covenant, and Muslim code of law—each of these offers a way to earn approval. Only Christianity dares to make God's love unconditional." - Philip Yancey, *What's So Amazing About Grace?*

Sola scriptura, sola fides, sola gracia—by scripture alone, by faith alone, by grace alone.

☐ Do you see yourself?



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Simon saw the woman in question by her reputation only.  
What are specific attributes about a person that strongly form someone's reputation in your eyes?
2. Who do you identify with more, Simon who judges greatly, or the woman who sinned greatly?
3. As a small group, re-read Luke 7:36-50 and answer these three questions:
  - 1). What does this passage mean to me personally?
  - 2). What does this passage say about the world I live in?
  - 3). What about this passage is weird, cool, or confusing?

