

How Should We Ask Jesus for Forgiveness?

The Forgiveness of the Sinful Woman in the Pharisee's House (Luke 7:36-50)

36 Then one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him. So, Jesus went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. **37** A woman in that town, who lived a sinful life, learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house. So, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, **38** and as she stood behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then, she wiped them with her hair, kissed them repeatedly, and poured perfume on them.

39 When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this, he thought to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

40 Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

"Say it, Teacher," he replied.

41 "Two people owed money to a certain lender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. **42** 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?"

43 Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

44 Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house, and you did not give me water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. **45** You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. **46** You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. **47** Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

48 Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

49 The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

50 Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

What Does This Story Teach Us About Seeking Forgiveness from Jesus?

This sinful woman's example teaches us the most beloved way to seek forgiveness from the Lord Jesus.

What Was Special About Her Way of Seeking Forgiveness?

- She did not say a single word to Jesus—yet Jesus said, "Your sins are forgiven, your faith has saved you."
- She simply expressed love and surrender.
- Her approach was not through words but through actions.

How Did She Ask for Forgiveness?

- She silently sat at Jesus' feet.
- She washed His feet with her tears.
- She wiped them with her hair.
- She anointed His feet with perfume.

What Should We Learn From This?

Jesus does not seek mere words; He desires true repentance and love.

The true way to ask for forgiveness is to regret our sins sincerely and dedicate our lives wholeheartedly to the Lord.

Jesus does not look at outward appearances but at the truth of the heart.

He values love and faith above all else.

Going to Jesus Without an Invitation—A Sign of True Faith

The woman did not wait for an invitation.

What Does This Mean?

- She was not afraid of what people would say.
 - She knew people would mock her.
 - She also knew they would insult her for her sinful life.
 - Yet, she did not care about anyone's opinion.
- She believed that Jesus would not reject her.
 - She knew that Jesus was greater than anyone else.
 - She trusted that Jesus would not punish her but would understand her pain.
 - She believed that Jesus would not condemn or shame her but would love her.

What Should We Learn?

- We do not need an invitation to come to Jesus.
 - We should go to Him with all our hearts, regardless of what people think.
 - No matter how great our past sins are, Jesus is ready to accept us with love.
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Standing Behind and Falling at His Feet—A Sign of True Surrender

Why did the sinful woman stand behind Jesus instead of in front of Him?

- She was fully aware of her sins.
- She did not consider herself worthy to stand before Jesus.
- Because of her guilt and shame, she bowed her head.

Yet, Jesus did not ignore her but showed her the greatest love and blessing.

What Should We Learn?

Whenever we sin, we should stand before Jesus with our heads bowed in humility, instead of proudly justifying ourselves before Him.

Bringing Perfume—A Symbol of Complete Surrender

Why did the woman bring perfume?

- Perfume was one of the most precious things in her life.
- Since she was a sinful woman, perfume was likely an important part of her lifestyle.

What Is the Right Approach?

- We must dedicate our most valuable things to Jesus so that they lead us toward holiness instead of sin.
 - Just as she poured out her perfume at Jesus' feet,
we must surrender our desires and pride completely to the Lord.
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Washing His Feet with Tears—The True Repentance

Why did she wash His feet with her tears?

- She was not asking Jesus for anything; she was only repenting for her sins.
- She did not make excuses or complaints—her tears were the pain of her soul and the expression of her pure heart.

What Did Her Tears Represent?

- Her tears symbolized the washing away of her sins.
- She admitted, "I am so impure that only my tears can cleanse my sins."
- She had no other offering—just a broken heart and repentance.

What Should We Learn?

- True repentance requires no excuses—only genuine sorrow for sin.
 - Jesus does not reject a broken heart; He accepts us with love.
 - Instead of hiding or justifying our sins, we should come before Jesus with full honesty and humility.
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Wiping His Feet with Her Hair—A Sign of Transformation

Why did she wipe His feet with her hair?

- Tears alone do not complete repentance—one must also decide never to return to sin.
- Her wiping with hair symbolized that she was leaving behind her old ways.

The Deep Meaning of Wiping with Hair

- A woman's hair represents her beauty and honor.
- By wiping Jesus' feet with her hair, she surrendered her pride and self-respect to Him.
- This showed that she had completely left her past life.

What Should We Learn?

- Mere tears are not enough—our lives must change.
 - True repentance means making a firm decision never to sin again.
 - When we surrender to Jesus, we must offer everything—our pride, desires, and ego—to Him.
 - That is the true sign of forgiveness and transformation.
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Anointing His Feet with Perfume—A Symbol of True Worship

Why did she anoint His feet with perfume?

1. Repentance before Worship
 - After repentance, her worship became acceptable.
2. Perfume Was More Than Fragrance—It Was Love and Surrender
 - She gave her most precious possession to Jesus.
3. What Should We Learn?

- True worship comes from a pure heart.
 - It is not just an external offering but a surrender of ego and desires.
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No Words, Only Love—The Power of Silent Worship

Jesus said, “Her sins are forgiven because she loved much.” But when did she say she loved Him?

- She did not praise Him.
- She did not shout His name.
- Yet, Jesus saw her actions as love.

What Should We Learn?

- True love does not need words; it is shown through actions.
 - Jesus accepts love expressed through repentance, surrender, and humility.
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Blessed is our Jesus, and blessed is His love

Led by the Holy Spirit, Guided by Faith and Scripture

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I sincerely thank my respected Pastor, Rev. Sahadev Nanda, for teaching this topic so profoundly and clearly. His guidance has been a great blessing, enriching both my knowledge and faith. May God continue to bless him abundantly.

With gratitude,
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