

Alabaster Box

Mrs. Jeanne Williams

All Bible quotations are taken from King James Version unless otherwise noted. This file contains notes from the sharing by Jeanne Williams at God's Girls Ministry on May 24, 2010. All personal testimonies are omitted from these notes. I believe personal testimonies belong to the witness only and should not be repeated by anyone else, especially in a public forum. Verses referred to in these notes that are in parenthesis and in italic font were not shared by speaker, but are supplied by editor as reference to spiritual principals for your learning.



Image found on <http://www.sethskim.com/2009/05/28/the-bad-and-the-wasted-life/>

Matthew 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

When you think of woman in the Bible, do you think of?

- ❖ The precious teenager, pure and holy Mary
- ❖ Mary and Martha, servants and ministers of the Lord Jesus Christ
- ❖ Deborah, the judge of Israel, strong leader of the army of God.

All these women are worthy to be in the presence of the LORD. All were servants of the most high God.

In the mirror, who do I see? I do not compare myself to these women. I am more likely to compare myself to the likes of Delilah who used her wiles to get what she wanted, or Jezebel, who usurped authority that was not hers. Or the sinful woman who all she wanted was to get to Jesus, the woman with the alabaster box. She had lots of things standing in her way: culture, her gender, shame, others judgment against her, religious indignation, her profession....

Luke 7: 36-50

36 And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.

45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.

Luke does not name this woman. She is not the same woman in Matthew and John. That was Mary of Bethany. This record occurred 6-8 weeks before Jesus' death. Mary of Bethany did what she did right before Jesus' death. This was an unnamed woman who was known only for her profession and not by her name. They all knew what she did. Some of the Pharisees in that room were probably her best customers. (*Those that yell the loudest against a certain sin are usually those who are practicing it the most*).

She was a wealthy woman. She was not poor. She had a very expensive alabaster box full of perfume. This had to have cost her a lot of money. She had to have made a lot of money in order to buy it for her self.

Some where, one day, she either heard Jesus speak, or heard someone else tell about him. Something stirred in her heart.

"I can be set free. I don't have to do this for the rest of my life...If only I can get to him."

Like the woman plagued by the issue of blood, who did not let anything get in her way to touch the hem of his garment, this woman was determined to get to Jesus. There was everything preventing her from getting to him:

- ❖ Jesus was at a *Pharisee's* house for dinner.
- ❖ Court yard guests were visible from the street.
- ❖ She was a woman.
- ❖ She was a sinner.
- ❖ She was a prostitute.

But she was determined. *"I will not miss this opportunity to get to Jesus."*

The men reclined on couches to eat. Their feet were behind them with the table in the front. She was able to get to Jesus' feet without interrupting anyone's dinner. Finally she could worship this man who was able to set her free.

Vs 37, 38

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38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.

Then the self righteous Pharisee started with his accusation against JESUS. *"I knew he wasn't really a prophet. It's a good thing it's out of the bag now. He's no prophet. If he was a prophet, he would know what kind of woman this is."* He had not invited Jesus to honor him. He invited

him there to watch him, to accuse him. He did not believe that Jesus was the anointed one, The Christ. But that woman did. Her works demonstrated that she believed it.

Forgiveness has to do with the heart, not the size of the debt being forgiven. This woman cast herself onto the Lord Jesus who forgave her. Luke contrasted the sinners with the Pharisees. The sinner always came out on top. In this case, the Pharisee did not even bother to fulfill his own custom. Because the people wore open sandals and the dirt roads were notoriously filthy, the custom was to provide water, a towel and a servant to wash every guest's feet. His own custom was broken. But this woman washed Jesus' feet with her tears. It was a courtesy for the host to provide a dry towel for the guest's cleaned off feet. But Simon did not. This woman wiped them dry with her crown and glory; her hair. She considered her best (hair) was only worthy of his least (feet). It was common courtesy for the host to anoint the head of the special guest with oil and to kiss his face. But Simon did not do any of that. It was this woman who gave him the honor that was due him. She anointed his feet with her costly perfume, and kissed his feet.

“Simon, you did not give me a towel, but this woman wiped my feet with her hair. Simon, you did not kiss me. But this woman has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head as a special guest but she poured perfume on my feet. Her many sins have been forgiven and she loves me much.”

There is a man who loved the Lord. He was as good as a man as she ever had met. This verse talks about he who is forgiven little loves little. But she knew this man who was forgiven for little that loved much. He loved much because he knew Jesus by name. He really knew him. He was intimately acquainted with him.

Jesus knows us He never lost us. He has known us all along. His light dispels all darkness. [John 12:46]

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

His word is a discerner of our heart, and the intents and purposes of our heart, our agenda.

When you look in the mirror, don't think you are unworthy and see yourself as Delilah or Jezebel. See Jesus. God sees Christ in you, the hope of glory. [Colossians 1:27] He doesn't see how fat, thin, pale, dark, or bald you are. He sees his son, Jesus. He sees you through his blood. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Jesus loves us, and cleans us up. The holy spirit is in us.

“I am a smoker so I won't come to church until I quit smoking.”

“I’ve got a prison record; no one will welcome me at church. Or if they find out I have a prison record, I will be asked to leave.”

These kinds of attitudes are not unusual at churches. The Pharisee had that kind of attitude too. People desperate for Jesus, come looking for Jesus, looking for freedom, looking for the love of God, and the blood of Jesus. The self righteous stand in their way, and have no place for them. The self righteous may have been brought up in church. They may look good on the outside. They may tithes; they may act spiritual and cast out demons. But they don’t know Jesus. If they did they would love like him.

Matthew 7: 20

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

21 ¶ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

This woman with the alabaster box was considered wicked but culturally, her customers were not. Jesus rebuked the self righteous Pharisee. Go into the presence of the Lord with a grateful heart and remember what he did for you.

If you could only see where Jesus brought me out of, to where I am now. I did not always serve the Lord. But God is faithful. When I was living in sin, I still prayed for my boys and someone else prayed for them too. Jesus, on the right hand of God, made intercession for them. [Romans 8:34] If we are able to give our children to the Lord, he will take care of them. (Now my sons serve God and all their children serve God, too.)

I prayed everyday for a wicked woman, everyday for seven years. I learned later that my prayers were answered. She came to know Jesus and would spend eternity with him. God is faithful and He worked it out through her husband. Her husband went back to his Mennonite roots. He told the preacher through cussing words that his wife was in a coma. The preacher told him to read the gospel of John to her everyday. So for three years while she was in a coma, this woman’s husband read to her the gospel of John everyday. Three days before she died, the preacher went to visit. He spoke her name. Her eyes opened for the first time in three years. She said, “What?” The preacher asked her, “Do you know Jesus Christ?” She said, “I am going to be with him in a few days.”

If you have someone, maybe the love of your life who is not serving the Lord, if your child is going every direction but to the altar, do not stop believing. Keep praying. God is faithful. You may not see the fruit in your lifetime but the prayers will be answered. Your prayers will be

poured out like incense on the earth here in these end times. They might have to suffer a while but they will not go to hell. God said ASK. You have not because you ask not. [James 4:2] Pray his will. What is his will? His will is that NO ONE should perish.

1Timothy 2:4

Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

He will do it. He is good. He loves my children as much as He loves me. Calling God Abba is not sacrilegious and disrespectful to Him. . Calling Him Daddy is not sacrilegious. I can trust God with everyone, even with the President of the United States. Don't stop praying. Thank God for doing it. Say it again and again. Keep that person's name before the throne of the Father.