



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

A Changed Life

NOVEMBER 20, 2013

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a Gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities sharing scripture, teaching forgiving sin, physically healing people of demons and disease, and raising the dead. Jesus began to challenge the religious rituals of the day and most importantly shared the Kingdom of God. On this occasion, Jesus describes the change in a person's life when they accept His saving grace.

“Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him, and He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner.” (Luke 7:36-39 NASB)

Pharisees sought out Jesus. Pharisees followed, spied, observed and commented about Jesus during His ministry. On this occasion one of the Pharisees, Simon, ask Jesus to dine with him. Luke later shares that the Pharisee's motives were not gracious and welcoming but rather designed to discover and exploit issues that the Pharisee might find in Jesus. While it was customary to allow neighbor to observe diners and gatherings in their local community, on this occasion a questionable neighbor did more than observe.

A prostitute crashes the party. Luke records that a woman who was a public sinner, generally understood to be a prostitute, unexpectedly and socially incorrectly shows up at the dinner. This woman did not just observe the dinner but approached Jesus as He was dining. She likely had come to know and trust Jesus as her Savior and Lord (Mt 11:28-30) and had come to express her love and worship.

The woman loved and worshiped Jesus. Luke records that the woman showed her love for Jesus by bathing His feet with her tears of joy, drying His feet with her hair and greeting or acknowledging Him by kissing and anointing or pouring expensive perfume on His feet. With the action of this woman, the Pharisee saw an opportunity to condemn Jesus.

The Pharisee attempts to embarrass Jesus and challenges Jesus' authority. Luke continues to record the constant battery of attempts of the religious community to embarrass or discredit Jesus. This Pharisee, after seeing the prostitute lavish love and praise on Jesus, challenges Jesus' authority by stating that He is not a prophet or He would have known the character and occupation of this sinning woman who was touching Him. The Pharisee fails to understand the relationship of sin and the saving nature of grace, undeserved favor, through faith in Jesus. The Pharisees had drawn inappropriate conclusions on the value of a person by God based upon their levels of sin. The Pharisees had incorrectly elevated their value above others because of their religious positions.

For Your Consideration:

- Do you seek out Jesus to attempt to find fault or hope in His message?
- Do you see yourself as a sinner that needs forgiveness?
- Like the prostitute, have you accepted the salvation found in Jesus and if so, do you humble yourself to love and worship Jesus for the sins that He has forgiven you?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44