

I Owe Jesus a Debt of Love

Luke 7:36-50 NIV

When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. 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 and poured perfume on them. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said 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." Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. "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?" Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Powerful Question from John Wesley

Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisee who despised the sinful woman? (paraphrased)

Live Event Extra #1

21 Questions from John Wesley that will make you think

<https://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/selfexam.htm>

Press On in Obedience

Philippians 2:12-13 NIV

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Sermon in a Sentence

Love formed obedience is perfectly imperfect and persistently improving.

Love Formed Obedience

Not FEAR FILLED Not CONTROL MOTIVATED Not RULED BY RULES but shaped and created by our love for Jesus; seeking to follow the two great commandments

Great Commandments

Matthew 22:37-40 NIV

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Perfectly Imperfect

Our obedience to Jesus will not be completely free from defects. Even with its imperfections, God's grace considers our obedience perfect as long as our motives are pure.

Persistently Improving

Your obedience can improve as you avoid distracting actions and replace them with actions that draw you closer to Jesus. All that's possible because God is working in us and he will complete what he started.

God Will Complete His Work

Philippians 1:6 NIV

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

A New Way of Viewing Obedience

Asking a 4-year-old to work with you will produce different results than asking a 14-year-old or a 24-year-old or a 34-year-old. As long as each is motivated to work with you out of love, you'll accept the various results with the same gratitude. It would be unloving and unjust to expect the 4-year-old to perform at the same level as a teen or adult. It would be equally as unloving and unjust to allow the teen or adult to act like a 4-year-old. King Jesus judges our obedience and loyalty to him in with that kind of love. Knowing his grace – his generous love – is on our side frees us to do our best and trust him with the rest. We are free to follow Jesus without being ruled by rules.