



## Story of the Large and Small Debtor: Heart-Healing Forgiveness (Luke 7:36-50)

In Luke 7, when Jesus has dinner at the home of Simon the Pharisee and the “sinful woman” interrupts the proceedings by kissing and anointing Jesus’ feet, Jesus tells a short parable of the large and small debtors. This is an important parable, but the interaction between Jesus, the woman and Simon speaks volumes about forgiveness: God’s forgiveness toward us and our love towards others and to Him.

“Jesus always used stories and illustrations like these when speaking to crowds. In fact, he never spoke to them without using such parables.” (Matthew 13:34)

PARABLES—short stories from everyday life that point to deeper levels of spiritual understanding.

### 1. The Cultural Backdrop of the Story

- Kiss of Greeting
- Washing of Feet
- Oil for Anointing

### 2. Jesus Tells a Story

“Jesus answered him, ‘Simon, I have something to tell you.’  
‘Tell me, teacher,’ he said.” (Luke 7:40)

“Two men 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 cancelled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”  
(Luke 7:41-42)

### 3. Jesus Applies the Story

“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.’” (Luke 7:44-46)

“Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.” (Luke 7:47)

‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’  
(Mark 12:30-31)

### TWO GIFTS THAT WE CAN BRING TO JESUS:

#### 1. The Gift of Repentance

“Therefore, I tell you, your many sins have been forgiven” (Luke 7:47)

#### 2. The Gift of Adoration

- Music
- Writing
- Physical Activity
- Serving

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