



## Road Trip: On the Road with Jesus in Galilee

Week 17a: **Jesus Forgives a Sinful Woman** (Luke 7:36-38)

### Road Trip: On the Road with Jesus in Galilee

We are in the middle of series we started back in Spring of 2017 which is found in Luke 4:14 thru 9:50. Jesus is traveling and ministering with his followers through the region of Israel called “The Galilee.” The question we are asking is...“If you and I had been with Jesus and the disciples during this portion of his ministry, what would we have **seen** and **heard**? More importantly, **what would we have learned from watching Jesus minister to the people of that region?**”

#### The Text:

- <sup>36</sup> One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. <sup>37</sup> When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. <sup>38</sup> Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them. (Luke 7:36–38 NLT-SE)

#### The Women Who Anointed Jesus:

- There are **four reports** of Jesus being anointed by a woman while he was alive on earth. These appear to describe **three different cases**. When we look closely into these three accounts, we find that they were actually **three separate events** that occurred on **three separate days** in three different places by **three different women**.
  - **The Sinful Woman...** In Luke 7:36-38 and 44-50, a woman wet Jesus’ feet with her tears, wiped them with her hair and anointed them with ointment from an alabaster flask. She is described as “*a certain immoral woman from that city.*” The city is not named, but was probably in Galilee as the events surrounding this passage took place in Galilee. This probably took place shortly after Jesus chose his 12 disciples.
    - Place of Event: House of Simon the Pharisee, **Galilee**.
    - Day of Event: **First year of Jesus’ ministry** because in Luke 8:1 it says “*soon afterwards he went through the cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him*” (NSRV) and at that time Jesus had not chosen the 72 apostles referred to in Luke 10.
    - Details of Anointing:
      - **Stood at His feet behind him weeping.**
      - Washed his feet with her tears.
      - Wiped them with her hair.
      - Kissed his feet.
      - Anointed them with fragrant oil (verse 38).
    - Person who Criticized and their Criticism: **Simon the Pharisee...** “*This man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner*” (verse 39).

- Result of Anointing: "Your sins are forgiven...Your faith has saved you. Go in peace" (verses 48-50)
- **Mary of Bethany...** In John 12:1-11, Mary of Bethany, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, anointed Jesus' feet with ointment of pure nard. Judas Iscariot complained about the waste. This anointing took place six days (John 12:1) before the Passover at which Jesus was crucified.
  - Place of Event: Bethany, at the home of Lazarus, **Judea**.
  - Day of Event: **Six days before the Passover**; the Saturday prior to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection from the dead.
  - Details of Anointing:
    - Took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard.
    - **Anointed the feet of Jesus**.
    - Wiped his feet with her hair (verse 3).
  - Person who Criticized and their Criticism: **Judas Iscariot**... *"Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"* (verse 5).
  - Result of Anointing: "She has kept this for the day of My burial" (verse 7). *Note: Put on his feet.*
- **The Woman with the Extravagant Gift...** In Matthew 26:6-13 and Mark 14:3-9, an unnamed woman anointed Jesus in the house of Simon the leper in the town of Bethany. She anointed Jesus' head with very expensive ointment of pure nard from an alabaster flask. In this case it seems that all of Jesus' disciples complained about the waste, prompting Jesus to defend her action, describing it as a beautiful thing done to anoint him for burial. This anointing took place 2 days (Matthew 26:2 and Mark 14:1) before the Passover at which Jesus was crucified.
  - Place of Event: Bethany, at the home of Simon the Leper, **Judea**.
  - Day of Event: **Wednesday**; two days (from Tuesday evening till sunset on Thursday) prior to the Passover and Jesus' crucifixion.
  - Details of Anointing:
    - Came to Jesus having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil.
    - **She poured it on his head as he sat at the table** (Matt 26:7; Mark 14:3).
  - Person who Criticized and their Criticism: **Disciples** (in Matthew), "**some**" (in Mark)... *"Why was this fragrant oil wasted? For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.' And they criticized her sharply"* (Mark 14:4-5; cf. Matthew 26:8-9).
  - Result of Anointing: "She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her" (Mark 14:8-9; cf. Matthew 26:12-13). *Note: Put on his head.*
- The differences in **setting, time** and the **part of Jesus' body which was anointed**, argue convincingly that these four records do not all record the same event; while the closeness of the records of Matthew and Mark reflect a description by two writers of the same event.
- **There is one more attempted anointing.** On the Sunday after Jesus had been crucified, a group of women came to anoint his dead body with spices and ointments (Matthew 28:1-6, Mark 16:1-6 and Luke 23:55-24:7). Just not thing stood in the way. Jesus had been resurrected and was no longer in the tomb!