

The Main Thing, Part 1:
“Love the Lord Your God” | Luke 7:36-50
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*Believing Jesus forgives us much
causes us to love him much.*

I. “Who is this Jesus?” (36-39)

Luke 7:36-39 (ESV): 36 One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. 37 And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, 38 and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. 39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner.”

- Truth #1: People can be characterized as “religious” or “non-religious” (36-39).

II. “Who loves more?” (40-47)

Luke 7:40-43 (ESV): 40 And Jesus answering said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” And he answered, “Say it, Teacher.” 41 “A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?” 43 Simon answered, “The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.” And he said to him, “You have judged rightly.”

- Truth #2: We must realize that we cannot truly love God by our own will (40-43).

Romans 7:14 (NLT): 14 So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin.

Romans 7:18-19 (NLT): 18 And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. 19 I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.

Luke 7:44-47 (ESV): 44 Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. 47 Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.”

- Truth #3: Authentic love for God is possible- it is real, joyful, and liberating (44-47).

III. “Who forgives sins?” (48-50)

Luke 7:48-50 (ESV): 48 And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” 49 Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this, who even forgives sins?” 50 And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

- Truth #4: Repenting leads receiving forgiveness by faith which leads to authentic love (48-50).

Isaiah 53:10-11 (NLT): 10 But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord's good plan will prosper in his hands. 11 When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins.

⇒ **Life Application:**

Take advantage of opportunities when we see that we are sinners to catalyze the process: repenting by faith and receiving forgiveness by faith that leads to loving God more.