

Unashamed Love

By Steve Pruitt

And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil.

Luke 7:37-38 NKJV

The washing of feet in ancient times was a very common practice. With most people wearing sandals and traveling on dry and dusty roads or terrain, washing their feet was not only a sign of hospitality but was necessary for cleanliness and health. For a host to ensure that his guest's feet were washed was as courteous as providing them with food or a place to rest. In most cases the lowest servant was given the task of washing feet. Anointing the head of a guest was also an act of courtesy and hospitality. Jesus' rebuke of Simon the Pharisee was justified seeing the he did not perform the basic acts of courtesy and hospitality.

The kissing of feet was also a common practice among the Jews as well as the Roman and Greeks. Kissing the feet was a means of expressing reverence and affection. Kissing the feet of a dignitary was also a token of obedience and subjection.

This woman lavished her love upon Jesus, not in response to a command but from a heart that was overflowing with gratitude. She was responding to the love of a God who had forgiven her of much. She wasn't concerned with what those sitting at the table thought of her.

It was obvious to the Pharisees that this woman was or had been a prostitute. It was a custom in those days for women to wear their hair up with their head covered. The only time a woman let her hair down was in the privacy of her bedroom with her husband, or in the case of a prostitute when she was conducting business.

True worshipers are not ashamed to show their affection to the Father. They are so overwhelmed with his love for them that fear of looking foolish is no deterrent. God is looking for men and women who like this woman are not afraid to break their alabaster boxes and anoint him with fragrant worship regardless of what those around them may think. The Father is looking for those people who will unashamedly let their hair down and show publicly how much they love and adore him.

Are you ashamed to show your affection to the Father for fear of what others may think? Ask the Father to give you an "unashamed love" for him.

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Scriptures for meditation

- Romans 1:16
- 2 Timothy 1:8-12
- Mark 8:38