

THE WOMAN WHO ANOINTED JESUS' FEET

Luke 7:36-50

Theme: A Grateful Heart

Episode 7 of 7

Part 1: THEY MET THE MASTER SERIES

(STORIES OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO MET JESUS)

CTTW SHORT DRAMA PROGRAMS W/QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CHRISTIAN RADIO DRAMA

“THE STORY WITHIN”

007



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Part 1: They Met the Master Series
Episode 7 of 7: The Woman Who
Anointed Jesus' Feet
Christ to the World Ministries

DIRECTORIAL INFORMATION

CAST OF CHARACTERS: (note voice quality required)

- **Each voice should be recognizably different from any other character.**
- **Some characters appear in multiple episodes of this series. Use the same voice for the same character.**

Julia: **A Prostitute** (voice of a mature woman)
Ruth: **Julia's friend** (voice of a mature woman)
Simon: **A Pharisee** (voice of a mature man)
Jesus: **The promised Messiah** (voice of a mature man)
Voices: **For sound effects** (men)

Notes to all readers:

- These are radio **dramas**. The actions and emotions are in the words. Remember that the listener will only hear these words once; speak distinctly with appropriate emotion; carefully observe all punctuation (i.e., pause at commas, stop at periods, intensify at exclamation points, and give special emphasis to words in **bold** type).
- Observe all **music** cues (bold/small print) throughout the script.
- Observe **sound effects**_directions (bold print) throughout the script.
- Observe all **voice** instructions (bold print) throughout the script.
- When Scripture is used, the print is in *italics*, and it is the NIV (1984). Scripture references are given to aid the translators and should not be read as part of the script.

THE WOMAN WHO ANOINTED JESUS' FEET

Scripture Reference: Luke 7:36-50

(Music: Theme music begins, then gradually fades to underscoring during comments by Program Host. Note to producer: Limit theme music not to exceed 12-14 seconds.)

Program Host

Welcome to "The Story Within." Today's drama tells us about the woman who anointed Jesus' feet, a woman who "Met the Master." It is based on the gospel of Luke in the Bible. As Jesus traveled the countryside teaching, healing, and sharing God's truth, he met many who believed and followed Him. He also encountered a large number of religious leaders who felt threatened by His rejection of some of their established traditions. Jesus taught and lived love and acceptance for all who turn to Him in faith. He dared associate with well-known sinners and emphasized repentance over rituals. As a result, several people who clung to such rituals rejected Jesus. They sought to trap Him in order to get rid of Him. Their methods included both direct confrontations and subtle, but hateful, opposition.

On one occasion, a Pharisee named Simon invited Jesus to a dinner at his house. That sounded harmless enough, even hospitable. Yet, Simon ignored common courtesies shown to guests in those days. He did not greet Jesus with a kiss on the cheek, which was customary for that time and culture. Neither did he offer Jesus water to wash the dust from His feet nor did he anoint Jesus' head with oil.

As guests reclined around Simon's table, a well-known prostitute entered Simon's house, washed Jesus' feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. She then poured perfume from an alabaster jar on Jesus' feet.

Simon was appalled that Jesus permitted her to do that. He wondered why Jesus would allow such a woman to touch Him. However, Jesus explained, through a parable, that the greater a person's forgiven debt, the greater her love and gratitude. This woman, who placed her faith in Jesus, received Jesus' forgiveness and eternal salvation. Jesus told her to go in peace.

Listen now as Julia, the name chosen for the woman who anointed Jesus' feet, tells us her story.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

(Julia – Storyteller)

Never in my life had I known anyone who loved me. Never had anyone accepted me. Never had anyone forgiven me. Anger and condemnation met me at every turn. I knew I had done wrong, but how could I change? Who would offer me a hand up from where I was to where they were?

Even as a child, I understood everyone's mindset about prostitutes, the lowest of the low in our society. No one had to tell me. People's attitudes and behavior made their disdain obvious. Nevertheless, I had no family support and no means of income. I wanted to survive, so prostitution was the path I followed.

I hated the way men looked at me when they came for my services. Far more, I hated the way they acted when they saw me in public, particularly if their wives or other family members were with them. They treated me like a nobody – like scum. They used me and then threw me away with no more consideration than they would give a piece of trash.

Then one day, everything changed.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

Julia: **(almost sings)** Good morning, Ruth! Good morning! Good morning!
What a lovely day!

Ruth: **(surprised)** Well, aren't you a little ray of sunshine this morning?
What in the world is going on, Julia?

Julia: **(determined)** I can tell you one thing that is **not** going on any longer,
Ruth. I am out of this business for good. Never again will I sell
myself. Never . . . ever . . . again. I don't care if I starve to death.

Ruth: You have no idea how hard that can be without family support.

Julia: **(adamantly)** Oh, indeed I do. In fact, I know I **could** starve. After all,
who wants to give a former prostitute a chance?

Ruth: Exactly, and I can tell you the answer to that. **(angry) No one!**
Absolutely no one.

Julia: Well, now, that brings me to the good news for today, Ruth. I have found someone – someone who knows my past, forgave me of all I have done, and cleansed me with His righteousness.

Ruth: I have no clue what you are talking about, Julia. It sounds to me like you are dreaming.

Julia: It is no dream, Ruth. You know that traveling preacher people have been talking about so much?

Ruth: You mean Jesus?

Julia: Right. That's the one. I heard Him teaching yesterday, so I found a place no one could see me, and I listened to what He had to say. He talked about God's love for **all** people. He said no one is free from sin. Then He said no one has done so much God cannot forgive him or her. I tell you the truth, Ruth. He looked right at me when He said that. Then He said if we repent of our sins and turn our lives over to God's control, He will forgive us and cleanse us. Can you believe that? Jesus said I could be clean. **(chokes on tears)** Right where I was and in that moment, I trusted Him. I trusted Jesus and asked God to forgive me. **(voice catches)** And I know He did! I cannot explain it, but I have no doubt, Ruth. I have never known such peace and joy.

Ruth: (skeptical) Oh no! Are you going to become one of those self-righteous hypocrites who looks down her nose at the rest of us sinners?

Julia: Believe me; that will never happen. I know how hard it is to try to do right on my own. I could not do it in the past, and I cannot do it now. However, Jesus promised God's power for those who turn their lives over to Him, (laughs through tears) and I am holding on to that promise for dear life.

Ruth: (still doubtful) We will see.

Julia: You don't have to accept my word for it, Ruth. Let me take you to hear Jesus for yourself.

Ruth: I don't know. I will have to think about that.

(Julia continues her story)

I could understand Ruth's skepticism. I would have thought the same way, if I had not encountered Jesus myself. I knew I was weak. I knew I would be tempted to return to my former ways. As much as I hated that lifestyle, it provided some sense of security. I knew the men who came to me cared nothing for me, yet for a few moments while I was with them, I could pretend they did. Plus, the little they paid kept food in my stomach.

However, I no longer had to face those temptations alone. Trusting Jesus, I had found a better way. I finally had someone who loved me for me, not for what He could get from me.

Because of the change in my life, I felt compelled to thank Jesus. I had to show Him how grateful I was. When I learned that Simon, the Pharisee, invited Jesus to his house for dinner, I knew what I had to do. I did not care how people reacted. I had to go. What people thought about me or my behavior no longer mattered.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

INTERMISSION

Program Host: Thank you for listening to “The Story Within.” Our story will continue in a moment. Julia was a sinful woman who had lived a life of shame. Many men had used and abused her. She hated her lifestyle but could not free herself from it. Then one day she heard Jesus teaching. Her life was transformed as she realized that God loved her and would forgive her sins. She became a new person. She wanted to thank Jesus for what He had done for her. She quietly made her way to a house where a Pharisee named Simon was hosting a dinner for Jesus. Let us listen as the story continues.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

INSERT: (Sound effects: Simon, Jesus, and others eating, talking, and laughing.)

(Julia continues her story)

I found them with no trouble. Several uninvited spectators gathered around the house. Jesus, Simon, and the other guests reclined at a table with their feet behind them. As I entered the room, I felt everyone's judgment and heard their whispers.

INSERT: (Sound effects: Men murmur in anger. Two harshly whisper, "What's she doing here?" "How dare she show her face here?")

Yet, I couldn't stop. Seeing through tears of pain and shame, and clutching an alabaster jar of perfume close to me, I found my way to Jesus. My tears covered His feet, and I knelt, drying them with my hair and kissing them in thankfulness and praise. Emptying my jar of its precious ointment, I anointed Jesus' feet.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

Simon: (whispers under his breath) *"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"* (Luke 7:29).

Jesus: *"Simon, I have something to tell you"* (Luke 7:40).

Simon: *"Tell me, teacher"* (Luke 7:40).

Jesus: *"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 canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"* (Luke 7:41-42).

Simon: *"I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled"* (Luke 7:43).

Jesus: *“You have judged correctly,” Simon. (turns toward Julia) “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 — for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little” (Luke 7:44-47) Julia, “your sins are forgiven” (Luke 7:48).*

INSERT: **(Sound effects: Other guests murmur among themselves, at least one person saying “Who is this who even forgives sins?” [Luke 7:49].)**

Jesus: *“Your faith has saved you, Julia; go in peace” (Luke 7:30).*

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

(Julia continues her story)

In front of Simon’s guests and the crowd gathered around them, Jesus confirmed what He had done in my life. Jesus knew my reputation. He recognized my sins. Yet He loved me. Not as other men had loved me. He offered pure, healing, unconditional love – love that demanded nothing physical in return. He forgave me of all my wrongs. He showed me I could be worthy, not on my own but by following Him. Jesus offered, and I accepted, freedom from my previous life along with hope for a future on earth and an eternal home in heaven. Jesus looked

beyond my reputation and offered me respect. He replaced my sorrow with joy and my sin with salvation.

(Music: Dramatic music swells; then begins reprise of Theme music; softly underscore comments of program host during Our Response to God)

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

Program Host

All of us owe a debt for our sins that we cannot pay. Some sins may be more scandalous than others, but no righteousness of our own can pay any of our spiritual debts.

Simon felt superior to Julia and believed Jesus should have rejected her. In contrast, Jesus knew Julia's past but also knew her heart. He redeemed her from the chains of her sins, and accepted her into the family of God when she placed her faith in Him.

Simon questioned Jesus' integrity when Jesus accepted Julia's gift of gratitude.

Although Simon expressed his doubt to no one but himself, Jesus knew his thoughts. Jesus offered a parable to help Simon, and perhaps others in the crowd, understand that the greater our debt, the greater our gratitude when that debt is forgiven.

Regardless of the degree of our sins, God loves us, Jesus died to pay our sin debt, and we need only to turn to Jesus in repentance and faith. No sin is so great that

Jesus' love and forgiveness are not greater. His gift of salvation is free to all. Those who accept it can, like Julia, go in peace.

Now we come to the time when we can respond to God.

When we trust Jesus Christ as our Savior and commit our lives to follow Him, we receive forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. His Spirit comes to live within us and to help us. The Word of God says, "*The Spirit helps us in our weakness*" (Rom. 8:26).

God wants us to grow and become stronger in our faith. We grow as believers by reading the Word of God each day. The Word of God helps us know how to live. We also grow as believers by praying each day. We should praise Him for His goodness and kindness and thank Him for His blessings to us. We should ask for forgiveness of our sins. We should ask for guidance as we live each day.

It is not always easy to follow Christ. A believer is often persecuted for being a follower of Christ. We should not be surprised when others persecute us and give us a hard time because we are believers in Christ. Jesus said, "*If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. . . .*" (John 15:20).

Love and forgiveness should characterize our lives as believers, even in the face of persecution. Jesus said, "*Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you . . .*" (Mt. 6:44).

We do not face persecution alone. God knows about every trial we face and He is with us. God has said, *“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you”* (Heb. 13:5). Because of His presence in our lives, we can say in words of Scripture, *“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?”* (Heb. 13:6). I’m going to pray a brief prayer from my heart to God. Listen to my prayer, and then when I have prayed, I will lead you to pray the same prayer.

Dear Lord Jesus, Thank You for coming into my life. Please help me to grow as a believer. Please help me to be strong when persecution comes to me.

Thank You that You will never leave me alone. In Your name I pray. Amen.

Now pray the prayer aloud after me. We will pray it a portion at a time. Make the prayer your very own to God. Mean it with all your heart as you pray.

Dear Lord Jesus, (pause for listener to repeat)

Thank You for coming into my life. (pause for listener to repeat)

Please help me to grow as a believer. (pause for listener to repeat)

Please help me to be strong when persecution comes to me. (pause for listener to repeat)

Thank You that You will never leave me alone. (pause for listener to repeat)

In Your name I pray. Amen. (pause for listener to repeat)

Thank you for praying that prayer. May God bless you richly as you live for Him each day. The next episode will be a drama about “The Man Who Lived in the Tombs.”

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

Questions and Answers

The Questions and Answers below are designed to be used following the broadcast of the drama. They are questions a typical listener might have after listening to the drama. The number of questions used will of course depend upon the amount of air time available at the conclusion of the drama. It may not be necessary to use all of the questions provided. Voices used for the questions should include: male and female; young and old; believers and non-believers. The Program Host should give all the answers to the questions.

Try to make both questions and answers conversational in nature.

The questions should be asked in a forthright manner. Persons asking the questions should reflect different attitudes and positions. Most of the questioners should reflect an openness and honest desire for the truth; some should reflect deep concern; some should reflect anxiety; some could reflect sarcasm or unbelief; some could even reflect anger. Occasionally a voice antagonistic to Christ and the Gospel could ask one of the questions.

The Program Host should use warm and friendly language and tone of voice. He should never talk down to a questioner in a demeaning fashion regardless of the question asked. He should never express shock or surprise at the question asked. He should speak in a manner that puts the questioner at ease. Some producers might want to use names. For example, a question might begin with: “My name is _____. Could you explain . . .” or “My name is _____. Here is my question: . . .” The Program Host could use the person’s name in answering the question. The use of names is at the producer’s option.

The Questions and Answers could begin by the Program Host saying: “Thank you for listening to this drama. Now let us go to some questions that listeners like yourself have about what we have heard.”

1. Question: Why did Simon invite Jesus to eat a meal in his home?

Answer: Simon may have been interested in learning more about Jesus. He may have been curious. Since Simon was a Pharisee, most likely he invited Jesus to see if he could find something wrong with His teachings and actions. He certainly did not extend to Jesus the courtesies extended to guests entering a home in that day.

2. Question: Why did Jesus accept the invitation to eat with a Pharisee?

Answer: Jesus loves everyone and wants everyone to trust Him and follow Him. He loved Simon and reached out to him by dining in his home.

3. Question: Why did the sinful woman wash Jesus' feet with her tears and anoint them with perfume?

Answer: The woman no doubt had heard Jesus teach and most likely had already trusted Him in her heart as her Savior. She wanted to show her gratitude and love.

4. Question: Why did Jesus let the sinful woman wash His feet with her tears and anoint them with perfume?

Answer: Jesus accepted the woman's love and gratitude. He was not ashamed of being seen with her. He loved her and forgave her sin.

5. Question: How could Jesus know what Simon was thinking?

Answer: Jesus knows even the thoughts of our heart. God's Word says: "*The Lord knows the thoughts of man*" (Ps. 94:11). The Psalmist cried to God: "*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts*" (Ps. 139:23). Nothing can be hidden from God, not even our innermost thoughts.

6. Question: Why did not Simon treat Jesus as an honored guest?

Answer: The custom in that day was to wash a guest's dusty feet, anoint his head with oil, and give him a kiss. Simon did none of this. His reception of

Jesus was cold and discourteous. This shows that his heart was set against Jesus.

7. Question: Why was Simon offended by the actions of the woman?

Answer: Simon knew she was a sinful woman. He was self-righteous and considered himself better than her and people like her.

8. Question: My life is a mess. I do not see any way out from my sinful and corrupt life. Is there any hope for me?

Answer: Jesus said, *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”* (Mt. 11:28). He also said, *“Whoever comes to me I will never drive away”* (John 6:37). If you will confess to Jesus that you are a sinner and trust Him as your Savior, He will come into your life and make you a new person. He will forgive your sins and give you eternal life. He will be with you all the days of your life here and then give you a home in heaven. No matter what kind of mess we have made with our lives, Jesus can forgive us and help us.

Thank you for listening and taking part in this program. May God be with you and keep you safe.

(Music: Theme music swells dramatically; then fades as broadcast ends)

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