A MONTH OF THANKSGIVING | Overflowing Gratitude

In Luke 7, Jesus is invited to the home of Simon the Pharisee. During the meal, a woman known for her sinful past enters the room and pours expensive perfume on Jesus' feet while weeping. Those around her see a sinner. Jesus sees a forgiven daughter. Her gratitude overflowed because she was forgiven much. She understood what Jesus had done for her. This lesson challenges us to remember where God found us, celebrate His forgiveness, and allow gratitude to overflow in worship and service. Let's see what God's Word has to say!

Luke 7:36-50

36 When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. 37 A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. 38 As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. 39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "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." 40 Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. 41 "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, [the usual daily wage of a day laborer] and the other fifty. 42 Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" 43 Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. 44 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. 45 You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. 47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." 48 Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." 49 The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" 50 Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

A few more verses...

"Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery." —Deuteronomy 8:11-14

"At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." —Titus 3:3-5

"Let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God." -Hebrews 13:15

“Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of His works with songs of joy.” —Psalm 107:22

Questions for Reflection

1. Did anything catch your attention? What stands out to you? What is the focus?
2. What stands out to you about the unnamed woman's actions and attitude? Why do you think remembering where God found us helps cultivate gratitude? What happens when we become too comfortable or familiar with God's blessings? What are some practical ways we can regularly remember God's faithfulness and grace in our lives?
3. Why did Jesus tell the parable of the two debtors? What was Simon missing that the woman understood? How does understanding the extent of God's forgiveness affect our worship? What is the connection between gratitude and grace?
4. What risks did the woman take by her public display of appreciation? How might fear of other people's opinions keep us from expressing gratitude and worship? What are some examples of "respectable" attitudes that can sometimes hide pride or spiritual indifference? How can we cultivate authentic worship regardless of what others think?
5. How did the woman express her love and gratitude toward Jesus? Why is it important to express thanksgiving instead of merely feeling thankful? In what ways can believers express gratitude outwardly? What is one specific action you can take this week to demonstrate your gratitude to God?
6. What insight did you gain from this lesson? Identify a few takeaways from this lesson.

A Few Takeaways

- Gratitude overflows when we remember where God found us.
- Forgiveness fuels gratitude; the more aware we are of God's grace, the more naturally thanksgiving flows from our hearts.
- Genuine gratitude values Jesus more than the opinion of others.
- Gratitude always finds an outward expression.

In Closing: Spend time thanking God not only for what He has done but also for who He is. Make a list of specific ways God has shown His grace in your life, and intentionally express your gratitude through worship, prayer, generosity, or sharing your testimony with others.

Take a moment to reflect on these questions:

- Am I more like Simon or the unnamed woman in this story?
- Do I take God’s forgiveness for granted? Have I become familiar with God’s grace instead of grateful?
- How am I expressing gratitude to God for all He’s done for me? Is gratitude overflowing from my life in my service, my speech, my attitude, and my generosity?
- What step can I take to be more intentionally thankful this week?

Bible Refs: Luke 7:36-50; Deuteronomy 8:11-14; Psalm 40:1-3; Ephesians 2:1-5; Titus 3:3-5; 1 Timothy 1:15; Hebrews 13:15; Psalm 107:22; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Ephesians 5:20; Colossians 3:17; Romans 12:1 [**SPANISH**]

11.08.26