

Luke 7:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.

Analysis

Jesus applies parable by contrasting Simon's minimal hospitality with woman's extravagant devotion: 'And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman?' (Greek 'Blepeis tautēn tēn gunaika'). The physical turn and direct question focus attention. Jesus lists Simon's failures: 'I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet' (Greek 'hudōr mou epi podas ouk edōkas'). Foot-washing was basic hospitality—roads were dusty, feet in sandals became filthy. Host's failure to provide water showed disrespect. The contrast: 'but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head' (Greek 'hautē de tois dakrusin ebrexen mou tous podas kai tais thrixin tēs kephalēs autēs exemaxen'). She exceeded what Simon omitted, using tears instead of water, hair instead of towel.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern hospitality codes required hosts to provide water, often through servant's foot-washing. The custom honored guests and provided comfort. Simon's omission could indicate disrespect, oversight, or testing Jesus. The woman's extraordinary action—tears, hair, continuous kissing and anointing—contrasted sharply with Simon's neglect. Early church adopted foot-washing as

humility symbol (John 13:1-17). The contrast illustrated that love's quantity corresponds to forgiveness's recognition.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do our actions toward Jesus reveal how much we appreciate His forgiveness?
2. What 'basic courtesies' toward God do we neglect through familiarity or presumption?
3. How does comparing ourselves to the extravagant woman challenge our worship's depth?

Interlinear Text

καὶ στραφεὶς πρὸς τὴν γυναῖκα τῷ Σίμωνι ἔφη
And he turned to the woman unto Simon and said
G2532 G4762 G4314 G3588 G1135 G3588 G4613 G5346

Βλέπεις ταύτην τὴν γυναῖκα εἰσῆλθόν σου εἰς τὴν
Seest thou she G3588 the woman I entered thine into G3588
G991 G3778 G1135 G1525 G4675 G1519

οἰκίαν ὕδωρ ἐπὶ τοὺς πόδας μου οὐκ ἔδωκας· αὕτη
house water for G3588 feet my no thou gavest me G846
G3614 G5204 G1909 G4228 G3450 G3756 G1325

δὲ τοῖς δάκρυσιν ἔβρεξέν μου τοὺς πόδας καὶ ταῖς
but G3588 with tears hath washed my G3588 feet And G3588
G1161 G1144 G1026 G3450 G4228 G2532

Θριξὶν τὴς κεφαλῆς αὐτῆς ἔξεμαξεν
them with the hairs G3588 head G846 wiped G1591

Additional Cross-References

1 Timothy 5:10 (Parallel theme): Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.

Genesis 43:24 (Parallel theme): And the man brought the men into Joseph's house, and gave them water, and they washed their feet; and he gave their asses provender.

Genesis 19:2 (Parallel theme): And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.

Genesis 18:4 (Parallel theme): Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree:

Judges 19:21 (Parallel theme): So he brought him into his house, and gave provender unto the asses: and they washed their feet, and did eat and drink.

1 Samuel 25:41 (Parallel theme): And she arose, and bowed herself on her face to the earth, and said, Behold, let thine handmaid be a servant to wash the feet of the servants of my lord.

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