

Luke 7:48

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

Analysis

Jesus tells the forgiven woman: 'Thy sins are forgiven.' The Greek 'aphēōntai' (ἀφέωνται, are forgiven, perfect passive) indicates completed action with ongoing state—her sins have been and remain forgiven. Jesus publicly pronounces what her faith already received. This forgiveness claim sparked controversy ('Who is this that forgiveth sins also?' v. 49) because only God forgives sin. Jesus' claim to forgive asserted His divine authority. The woman's faith and love response (washing Jesus' feet with tears, anointing with perfume) demonstrated genuine repentance resulting in forgiveness.

Historical Context

The incident occurred in a Pharisee's house during dinner. A 'woman in the city, which was a sinner' (likely a prostitute) entered uninvited, washed Jesus' feet with tears, dried them with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with costly ointment (vv. 37-38). The Pharisee Simon criticized Jesus for allowing a sinful woman to touch Him (v. 39). Jesus responded with a parable about two debtors (vv. 41-43), showing that those forgiven much love much. The woman's extravagant love demonstrated she understood her great forgiveness. Jesus' public forgiveness of this notorious sinner scandalized religious leaders but demonstrated the gospel's power to forgive and transform anyone.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' claim to forgive sins reveal about His divine identity and authority?
2. How does the woman's extravagant love demonstrate the proper response to understanding how much we've been forgiven?

Interlinear Text

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|---------|-------|----------|--------------|-------|-------|----------|
| εἶπεν | δὲ | αὐτῇ | Ἀφένονται | σου | αἱ | ἁμαρτίαι |
| he said | And | unto her | are forgiven | Thy | G3588 | sins |
| G2036 | G1161 | G846 | G863 | G4675 | | G266 |

Additional Cross-References

Mark 2:5 (Sin): When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.

Matthew 9:2 (Sin): And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.