

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

ST. MATTHEW



ST. MARK



2013

June 16, 2013

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 93

Gospel Lk 7:36—8:3

A Pharisee invited Jesus to dine with him, and he entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. Now there was a sinful woman in the city who learned that he was at table in the house of the Pharisee. Bringing an alabaster flask of ointment, she stood behind him at his feet weeping and began to bathe his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with the ointment. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus said to him in reply, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. "Two people were in debt to a certain creditor; one owed five hundred days' wages and the other owed fifty. Since they were unable to repay the debt, he forgave it for both. Which of them will love him more?" Simon said in reply, "The one, I suppose, whose larger debt was forgiven." He said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I entered your house, you did not give me water for my feet, but she has bathed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but she has not ceased kissing my feet since the time I entered. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she anointed my feet with ointment. So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven because she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." The others at table said to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." Afterward he journeyed from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. Accompanying him were the Twelve and some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources.

Spiritual Reflection:

I can almost see this story taking place in high school cafeteria. Simon, one of the cool teens, has invited Jesus to sit with the cool teens at lunch. Mary, not one of the cool teens, shows up and praises Jesus for something (imagine for yourself a modern day equivalent of washing Jesus feet). Simon becoming embarrassed begins to make fun of Jesus only to have Jesus put him in his place. The funny thing is that Simon should have know how Jesus would respond because part of Jesus' preaching was all about including those who were considered social outcasts. It seems Simon only wanted to know Jesus because it was going to make him "cool" and not because of Jesus' teaching.

Spiritual Questions

1. Why do you want to know Jesus?
2. Why do people make fun of others?
3. Are there times when you are ashamed to be a Christian?
4. What can you do today to wash Jesus' feet?
5. How would Jesus' ministry been different if He did not have women followers?

