

SESSION SEVEN: Why do people love Jesus? *Luke 7 v 36-50*  
Slower and Full Route

1. It was “sinful”. It may well be that this is a polite way of saying that she was a prostitute.
2. She goes to the dinner party Jesus is at; she weeps as she stands near him, so much that his feet get wet with her tears; she wipes his feet with her hair (his feet would have been dirty and smelly from walking along in a hot and dusty climate); she kisses his feet; she pours expensive perfume she’s brought with her on them. There would probably have been great shock at someone doing this to someone’s smelly feet; embarrassment that she’s been able to “break in” to the party; and revulsion that a woman like this, who has lived this way, has gatecrashed a classy dinner.
3. He thinks that if Jesus really was a prophet, he’d know this woman was a sinner—and therefore he would get rid of her. A prophet of God surely wouldn’t want to be touched by a woman who lived as this lady did!
5. The person who has a greater debt cancelled will love the money-lender more, because they’ve had more debt wiped out by him.  
Jesus is making several points to Simon, the Pharisee:
  - He has debts to God (sins) that he needs God to cancel, just as this woman does.
  - Because this woman has lived in such a sinful way, she can appreciate much more than Simon how amazing it is that Jesus forgives sinners, and so she will love Jesus more.
  - This woman has actually treated Jesus in a far more loving way than Simon has, because she appreciates that it’s an honour for her to be friends with him, whereas Simon perhaps thinks it’s an honour for Jesus to be invited to be friends with him!
6. The woman’s love is greater as shown by the way she acts towards Jesus. How we feel about Jesus reveals itself in what we do for him.
8. Because she knows she is a great sinner, and yet she knows that she can still approach Jesus and find forgiveness from him.
9. Because he claims to be able to forgive sins. The only person who can forgive someone is the person that someone has wronged. Sin is wronging God—so only God can forgive our sins. So the guests are, unsurprisingly, offended by Jesus’ claim to be able to forgive sins ie: that he’s God.
10. The woman has faith: she trusts that if she comes to Jesus, and loves Jesus, he will accept and forgive her. Her faith means she’s forgiven, and at peace with God, despite being a sinner.