

## *Loving Jesus*

*“Wherefore I say unto thee, her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little” (Luke 7:47).*

“He didn’t love her very much,” the cashier said to the customer standing in front of me, “or he wouldn’t have treated her that way.” I didn’t know the cashier, the customer, or the culprit they discussed. But I heard enough of the conversation to agree with them. Of course, we all have also heard the positive side of love from time to time. For instance, observing a mother’s great love for a child, someone comments, “She loves that boy with all her heart.”

When it comes to the Christian life, we can be sure that people constantly observe the quality of our love for the Lord Jesus Christ. I wonder if it has been said of you and me, “He couldn’t love Jesus very much or he would live differently.” Hopefully, someone will see our genuine affection for the Savior and assert, “I don’t know them very well, but I know that they love the Lord with all their hearts.”

In the scene before us, a woman, “which was a sinner,” came to Simon the Pharisee’s house to see Jesus. When she arrived, she “stood at His feet behind Him weeping, and began to wash His feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed His feet, and anointed them with the ointment” (7:38). Not only did Jesus use her actions to minister to Simon that day, but the lessons about loving Him are beneficial to us in our day.

*Loving Jesus is the result of one’s salvation!* When Jesus said, “her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much,” He was not implying that she was forgiven because she loved much. We are not forgiven or saved by our works. We are forgiven by God’s rich mercy and grace. “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us” (Titus 3:5). Because our many sins are forgiven, we are moved to love the Lord Jesus.

*Loving Jesus is the reaction of one’s soul!* It is true that the woman performed visible works, outward acts of devotion. But her works were not rendered to impress anyone. These actions were the overflow of her grateful soul. She was amazed that Jesus would receive a sinner like her, and she reacted with love and affection. Her inward appreciation was seen through her outward manifestations.

*Loving Jesus is the revelation of one’s sensitivity!* Even Simon the Pharisee agreed that the one who was forgiven the most would love the most (see 7:43). From the spiritual perspective, the more we are sensitive to our own sinfulness and God’s great forgiveness, the more we are motivated to love the Savior. May the Lord save us from our dullness and insensitivity and revive our love for Him.