

### **The Sinner and Jesus: Prophet, to Priest, to My King**

Luke 7:36-39

There's a major problem in our day, and it's not our national debt, our political stalemate, or even our cultural decline. The problem in our day is that people--individual people--don't listen to or follow Jesus. In our text we find a woman who worships Jesus, falls at His feet in submission, and gives to Jesus her most valuable possession. How does one move from indifference to endearment in terms of Jesus?

**Key:** *"If this man were a prophet* He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is 'a sinner.'" The implication is "therefore he would not allow her to touch him."

**Those who miss Jesus never *move along the spectrum of knowing Him as Prophet, Priest and then King.***

**Half-truth:** *Prophets have a solemn message of judgment and issue serious calls of repentance from sin.*

**What they got wrong:** Jesus is a prophet and often gives stern warnings (see Matt. 23:27; Matt. 23:33).

#### **I. A Prophet breaks people of self-righteousness and sin denial.**

It was the custom in Jesus' day to invite rabbis or teachers to your home for debate and fellowship. Remember, to 'recline' at supper was the standard posture of dinner guests --- reclining on one elbow with feet pointed toward the outer walls and eating with the other hand. A woman enters the home and stands at the feet of Jesus. She begins to cry. All eyes turn toward this woman intently. **She is "a sinner."** This word notes a *notorious* sinner, one that was known by all to have been a person of a wicked lifestyle; in other words, a lewd woman, a vile prostitute, a community harlot. The Arabic word used here, according to Gill, signifies both a sinner and a woman who sold herself. This is the precisely the way the word "sinner" is used in Luke 15:1-2 as well as Matthew 21:31-32. The religious and the self-righteous do everything in their power to cover, hide and deny their sin. All the great prophets of the old covenant - including John and Jesus - issued pronounced warnings. Crowds identified Jesus as "Jesus the prophet" (Matthew 21:11). Jesus saw Himself as a prophet. "No prophet is accepted in his own native place" (Luke 4:24). Jesus is most definitely a prophet.

#### **II. A Priest brings people to righteousness through mediation before God.**

"Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. We do not have a high priest who can't sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace" (Heb. 4:12-14). This sinner begins to cry. She notices her tears are falling on the feet of Jesus and bends down to wipe the tears with her hair. While close to Christ's feet, she takes her alabaster (or 'alibastron') and breaks it at Jesus' feet. The perfume filled the entire house. Then Simon said to himself: "This man, if he were a prophet would have known who and what manner of woman this is that touches him." **She is "a sinner."** She is a sinner who recognizes in Jesus His mediation on her behalf. She weeps. You will never come to know Jesus as your Priest until you first recognize Him as your Prophet.

### III. A King bestows His people with rights and privileges of His Kingdom.

*“My kingdom does not belong to this world”* (John 18:36). Jesus announced the kingdom of God. His mission was reign in the hearts of sinners and to bring a measure of peace and justice in the world. **She is “a sinner.”** Nobody throughout history has held claim to all three offices except Jesus Christ. If all you want in life is what the world offers, than all you’ll get in life is what the world offers. But *“seek first the reign of God in your life, then everything you need will be added to you”* (Matt. 6:33).