

# Loving the Unlovable

Luke 7:36-50; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 557-568

**W**hen Rafael and his family moved to a new neighborhood, he felt lost. He felt lonely at his new school.

Then one day a student came up to him in the hall and said, "Hi! I'm Karin. I've seen you but I don't know you yet. Come sit with me and my friends during lunch!"

Someone else included people who were left out—Jesus. He was friends with everyone.

**T**he dinner party at Simon's house was the place to be. Simon was one of the leading Jewish rulers, and Jesus had healed his leprosy. To show his thanks, Simon planned a huge feast for Jesus. Everybody who was anybody came.

Mary was there, too. She was the kind of person people talked about, not to. Everyone knew she was a sinner. Everyone knew Jesus had ordered seven unclean spirits out of her. She probably wasn't even invited to the party. But since she followed Jesus everywhere, no one stopped her. They just wanted her to stay quietly in the background.

Mary knew about her reputation. She knew she was not accepted in "polite" company. But she wanted to show Jesus how thankful she was. She had

with her a small alabaster jar of perfumed ointment. When no one was looking, she poured the ointment over Jesus' head and feet. Her tears of love and thanks flowed into the ointment. Quietly, she knelt down and wiped Jesus' feet with her long, flowing hair.

Probably no one would have noticed if it weren't for the fragrance. It smelled so good and quickly filled the whole room. People started talking. "That stuff is expensive!" they whispered to each other. "It cost what a man earns in a whole year! If she had sold it, the



## The Message

God wants me to include those who get left out.

## Memory Verse

“Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers” (1 Peter 2:17, NIV).

money could have been given to the poor. What a waste!”

Simon had a different thought. *If Jesus really were a prophet, He wouldn't let that woman touch Him. She's a terrible sinner!*

Mary was caught; and she was embarrassed.

Jesus knew what Simon was thinking. He also knew what Mary was feeling. “Leave her alone,” He told the whisperers. “You'll always have the poor with you, but you won't always have Me. She has done a beautiful thing for Me.”

And then Jesus turned to Simon. “Two men owed money to the same money lender,” He said. “One man owed 500 denari. The other owed 50 denari. The money lender knew neither man could pay him back, so he canceled their debts. Which one do you think loved him more?”

“I suppose the one who had the bigger debt,” said Simon.

“You're right,” said Jesus. “When I came into your house, you didn't wash My feet. You didn't pour oil on My head. You didn't even give Me a kiss of peace. But this woman did all that and more. She has been forgiven for a lot, and she loves Me a lot.”

Jesus showed respect for Mary, the least acceptable person at the party. He had even praised her efforts above Simon's. The last



person anyone would have expected became a good example. That kind of respect took Mary by surprise. She was used to being unloved and left out. Now she was being appreciated.

We all know people like Mary—people who get ignored or picked on. Jesus treated Mary kindly. He made her feel wanted and respected. He wants to include every person in His family just as He did Mary. And He wants us to treat one another the same way He treats us.



## S A B B A T H

**READ** Ask your family to sit as people did in Jesus' day. Remove your shoes. Lie on your left side on a make-believe couch. Hold your feet away from a make-believe table, and lean on your left elbow. While in this position, share some food. Then read the Bible lesson story together. Imagine that the people in the story are with you. What are they thinking about? Talk about it together.

**DO** Teach your memory verse to your family.

## M O N D A Y

**DO** Play "musical chairs" for family worship. (Play music, and suddenly stop it. Everyone must quickly find a seat.) Put out only enough chairs for about half of your family. Talk about how it feels to be left out.

**READ** With your family, read aloud Luke 7:36-50. How did Jesus make a left-out woman feel included? What can you do to include others as Jesus did? Ask Him to help you.

**DO** Say your memory verse from memory.

## T U E S D A Y

**READ** During family worship, read Mark 14:5 together. Talk about Mary's gift. One denarius was a day's pay in Jesus' time. Mary's perfume cost more than 300 denari. Her gift was worth about a year's wages! What does this tell you about Mary's feelings for Jesus?

**DO** Ask an adult to help you find out what a year's wages are today.

**DRAW** If you could give Jesus a gift, what would it be? Draw a picture that tells. How much would you spend?

**DO** Say your memory verse. Pray for the homeless in your town.

## S U N D A Y

**READ** For family worship, sit around a table together. Serve only half of your family a sweet treat. Discuss how it feels to be left out. Then share with each other so everyone has some of the treat. Tell about people you have seen being left out. Talk about what you did or could have done to help them. Read James 3:17 together. What does this text mean to you?

**DO** Say your memory verse together before prayer.

The perfume for Jesus cost Mary as much as an ordinary person can earn in a whole year.



## W E D N E S D A Y

**SHARE** During family worship, write a happy note to someone who is often forgotten. (Perhaps a person in a nursing home.) Add a message from God, such as Jeremiah 31:3 and draw a picture on your note. Mail it or deliver it yourself. Pray for that person today.

**SING** Sing "We Are His Hands" (Sing for Joy, No. 129).

**DO** Say your memory verse to three people.



# THURSDAY

**DO** With your family read Mark 14:1-9. What new things did you learn about this story?

**SHARE** Recall a time when you felt that someone left you out. Share how you felt. What will you do if you see someone left out at school?

**DO** Tell or write what your memory verse means in your own words. Then pray for students at your school.

# FRIDAY

**DO** Bring at least five different fragrant things to family worship (include good and bad smells). Have everyone take turns smelling them. Ask: Which smells good? Which smells bad? Which would you like to smell most often? Thank God for things that smell good.

**READ** Read Matthew 7:12 together and talk about it. What is this verse often called?

**DO** Retell the Bible lesson by sitting in a circle with your family. Ask each to add a sentence to the story. Start at the beginning and go around the circle. Say your memory verse at the end.

## PUZZLE

**Directions:** The following words are hidden in the letters. Look all directions, including diagonally, backwards and sideways; *respect, forgiveness, kindness, love, appreciated, thankful, included.*

