

A watercolor illustration of a coastal town. In the foreground, there are rolling green hills with some trees. In the middle ground, a town is built on a hillside, featuring a prominent lighthouse with a white tower and a dark top. To the left, a sea stack rises from the water. The sky is filled with soft, white and blue clouds. The overall style is soft and artistic, with visible brushstrokes and a warm color palette.

The Gospel of

Luke

Hesed:

When the person from whom I have
a right to expect nothing gives me
everything

Luke 7:36-37

36 One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and Jesus went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. 37 And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment...

Luke 7:38-39

38 ...and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. 39 Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner."

Luke 7:40-41

40 And Jesus answering said to him,
“Simon, I have something to say to you.”
And he answered, “Say it, Teacher.” 41 “A
certain moneylender had two debtors. One
owed five hundred denarii, and the other
fifty.

Luke 7:42-43

42 When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" 43 Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly."

Luke 7:44-45

44 Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet.”

Luke 7:46-48

46 “You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.

47 Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” 48

And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

Luke 7:49-50

49 Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this, who even forgives sins?” 50 And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Gospel hospitality is costly, self-giving love that elevates a stranger and allows them to be welcomed in as God's honored guest.

Now not knowing her story, how
would you interpret this woman's
actions?

What motives this woman's
behavior toward Jesus?

“It was before the Lord who chose me... I will celebrate before the Lord. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes.” (2 Samuel 6:21-22)

Luke 7:41

41 “A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.”

Luke 7:42

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Luke 7:43

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Jesus did not come to make bad men good, or good men better; he came to make dead men alive.

Luke 7:44

44 Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman?”

“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his hesed endures forever! Let redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from the hand of the foe and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.” (Psalm 107:1-3)

“Return to the Lord your God. For he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in hesed, and he relents from sending disaster.”

(Joel 2:13)

“The Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven or on earth, who keeps his covenant and hesed with your servants who walk before you with all their heart... Let your saints [hasidim] rejoice in your goodness.”

(2 Chronicles 6:14, 41)

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Do you love Jesus much?
Enough to make a scene like this?

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

(Ephesians 2:8-9)