GREAT LOVE XXII

Her sins, which were many, are forgiven; for she loved much:

Luke 7:47

Jesus had been invited to eat at the house of a Pharisee by the name of Simon. It seems that Simon asked Jesus to his house for he was trying to find fault in Jesus. While he was there a woman came in and stood behind Jesus and began weeping and as she did she washed his feet with her tears. Now Christ was not sitting in a chair as you or I would when we are eating but rather he was sitting in a leaning position with his legs curled under him. Thus his feet were behind him. When she completed the washing of his feet she dried them with her hair. She then took her alabaster box and anointed Jesus feet. All the while that she washed, dried, and anointed she was constantly kissing his feet. All these were actions of love.

Simon had not even offered Jesus water for his feet and he was in Simon’s house. This was the least of courtesies that could have been offered. He did not anoint Christ head with oil. Simon did not give him a kiss which was common courtesy. There were no acts of love offered by Simon to Jesus. It seems obvious enough that Simon was interested only in finding fault with Our Lord. His judgment of Christ was that he was not a prophet else he would have known this woman was a sinner. This observation was not verbally spoken but was merely thought. Little did he know but Jesus knows our thoughts. None of the actions of Simon were acts of love.

Jesus said that this woman’s love was born out of forgiveness. Simon only saw her as a sinner. Jesus knew she had been a sinner but also knew she had been forgiven because he was the forgiver. She had been forgiven of much. She, therefore, loved much.

Our love may be weak because we have forgotten how much we have been forgiven. If we come to worship like this woman approached Jesus we might not recognize our worship services. Surely there would be weeping, shouting and praising God. There would be uncontrollable thanksgiving taking place. We may be sinners; may have been the greatest of sinners but if we are forgiven we should be the greatest lovers of Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram