

A close-up photograph of a person's hand washing another person's foot. The hand is positioned to pour water from a small container onto the foot. The foot is resting on a surface. The background is blurred. The text "WHY DO WE WORSHIP?" is overlaid in white, bold, serif font. Below it, "Luke 7:36-50 NIV" is also overlaid in white, bold, serif font. There are decorative geometric shapes in the corners: a yellow diamond in the top right and a blue diamond in the bottom left.

# WHY DO WE WORSHIP?

**Luke 7:36-50 NIV**

When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. 37 A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume.

<sup>38</sup> As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.<sup>39</sup> When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.”



40 Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.” “Tell me, teacher,” he said. 41 “Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”

43 Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.” “You have judged correctly,” Jesus said. 44 Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.



45 You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. 47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

48 Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” 49 The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” 50 Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in

- **Worship:**
- Dictionary describes worship as
  - a)* **‘reverence offered to a divine being or supernatural power’**
  - b)* **an act of expressing such reverence.**



- Looking at our core values, we discovered that worship plays a big part in our Christian walk. when I talk about worship, I don't mean the singing, I mean glorifying God in all I do. So, the question today is '*Why do we worship*'?

There is a debate among theologians whether this is the same woman whom John named as Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus (*John 12:1-12*) .

In *Mark 14:3-9* and *Matthew 26:6-13*, this woman is not named.

- But the event *in Luke 7:36-50*, this woman is referred to as **an unknown sinful woman**. It takes place in the northern region, as Luke indicates in the early verses, Jesus was ministering in the northern regions of Nain and Capernaum.



Luke does not tell us precisely when this incident occurred, nor the name of the city. But we see the main characters as **Jesus, Simon the Pharisee, and the woman with a dirty reputation**. It is interesting that Luke gives us the name of the host, but not of the woman. Omitting her name is, in my opinion, a gracious act, probably done on purpose.

At first, it appears that there are two people equally zealous to see Jesus, Simon the Pharisee and the sinful woman, whom the name is not given. Simon could easily converse with Jesus in the comfort of his home, around a meal. For the woman, getting close to Jesus was no easy matter.



Her sinful life, most likely, known to all who lived in her town, made it difficult for her, a woman, to seek out Jesus, a man. Even if she owned a home, she could not have invited Jesus there, for this would have been inappropriate because of her history.



# **Why do we worship?**

**1) We worship because we know person we worship,**

a) Do you know the person you worship?

*b) Verse 37 and 38 says that; 'A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume.'*

38 As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

b) When you know who you're worshiping; you don't feel embarrassed to give your time and money to serve him.

c) This woman knew who she was worshiping, do you know whom you worship?



## 2) We worship because we understand His mission.

a) You must understand that Jesus was living his mission, Isaiah prophesied his mission long time ago, *Isaiah 61:1*. Jesus confirmed this in *Luke 4:8* by saying that; “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, (*Luke 4:8*).



b) Simon could not understand this; look at what he says here, *“he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.”* (verse 39)

c) We can see clearly that this Simon did not understand the mission of Christ.

d) Many of us have invited Christ in our lives and homes but we do not understand his mission. We are not reaching out or worshiping Him to fulfill His mission.

**3) We worship because we know what He did for us.**

a) Jesus responds to the Pharisee man with a parable.

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48 Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” 49 The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” 50 Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.

b) We have a choice; you can choose to be Simon or the woman.

c) I don't know what Jesus has done for you, but I know what He has done for me.

d) I want to believe that this woman was Mary, Lazarus' sister, she knew where Jesus had gotten her from, she saw how Lazarus rose from the grave.

e) Friends, people who don't understand what God has done for you will judge the way you worship.