American Decency Association

PO Box 202, Fremont MI 49412 231-924-4050 www.americandecency.org
Encouraging Christians to guard their heart November 2026

Are You Washing The Feet of Jesus?
by Steve Huston



A scene of thanksgiving and praise

"And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment." (Luke 7:38)

November, many minds are turned to Thanksgiving and its traditional meal, football, family, and fun. It's also a time to recognize – with praise, thanksgiving, and worship – that it is almighty God who has brought us to our current situation and that we are to give thanks for it.

In Psalm 96, David, a man after God's own heart, declared the glory of God before the heathen and urged others to give God the glory due His name: "*Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods…Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts. O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.*" (Ps. 96:3-4, 8-9)

We have all been made "in the image of God," yet we are unique individuals, each one with our own stories complete with background, hopes, aspirations, and ways of expressing ourselves. Worship includes private or public expressions of declaration, emotion, and honor which exudes from our own unique story. That's why the Lord God is given praise in many different ways. We are not to judge another person's praise; God is the object of our praise and instead of simply being a spectator, we should be joining in worship, even if it looks different from that which we are witnessing.

We all have an innate need to praise and worship something. Will it be of the One True God or will we lift up ourselves, another individual, or some "thing." Please stop and read Luke 7:36-50 before continuing. As you read, take note that this was a public setting at a private party; this woman was certainly out of her element. But actually, she was in her element because she was expressing adoration from the heart for our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Let's look at this woman and her praise from three points of view: First, the world's (Simon's), then her's (the believer), and finally, Jesus'.

First, from the World's Point of View: Her praise was UNINVITED. If you wait for the world to invite you to praise God, you'll be silent for a long time. Many churches today no longer give you an opportunity to praise the Lord for what He's done for you, what He's

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doing in you, or what you expect He will do in the future. God invites you to praise Him – 'nuf said! Her praise was a SPECTACLE! She was overwhelmed and couldn't control her tears, wiping Jesus' feet with her hair or the kisses of adoration which came from her lips upon those feet of the Living Gospel. The world will accept a spectacle at sporting events, political rallies, or anything the world worships, but if you or I give God praise in public, it's considered a spectacle and sneered at. Her praise was MISUNDERSTOOD. When people haven't experienced the saving grace of Jesus, they don't understand the blessing of being brought to life after being dead; they don't know what it is to have been blind, but now to have sight! They'll misunderstand your hallelujahs. This woman's praise was CRITICALLY UNAPPRECIATED. Fellow believer, when you publicly praise God and thank the Lord, the world will be critical; they won't appreciate your exuberance for God and may even be violent in word or deed. Regardless of how the world may view your praise, **PRAISE GOD ANYWAY!** He is **ALWAYS** worthy and deserving of our worship.

Next, from the Believer's Point of View: This woman was SINGLE-FOCUSED. She didn't care what others thought; she only had eyes for Jesus. Her praise was not given for others to view and then accept or reject; Jesus was the sole object of her praise. She likely was so intent on showing Jesus her love and adoration that she didn't even realize there were others present. For all practical purposes, Jesus and she were the only ones in that room. This praise was meant as A LOVE OFFERING. This spectacle of exuberant praise was simply an extension of herself – a testimony of a transformed life. Our praise should be an extension of our love for Jesus. It may or may not be grandiose, but it will be genuine and will be a LIFE of praise, not relegated to the confines of the church or your own home. Whenever the Spirit moves you to gratitude and praise for who God is, PRAISE HIM in your own unique and personal way. Sometimes it might be a quiet, "Thank you, Lord" or it might be an enthusiastic "Hallelujah!" but it will be real and directed only to our God.

Finally, from Jesus' Point of View: Regardless of what the world (Simon) had to say, Jesus Welcomed, Accepted, Understood, Appreciated, Truly saw, and Loved this woman's praise.

Simon judged both the woman and he judged Jesus. However, Jesus proved Himself by addressing what He knew to be in Simon's heart and mind. She was proved by our Lord's commendation of her. Simon, on the other hand, was judged by his heart and his actions, or his lack thereof. Simon condemned this woman's worship, yet had no worship of his own to give. Are we washing the feet of Jesus with love and praise, or do our feet stink, standing in critical judgment of another's worship?

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