

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

The week of JUNE 23/24

JESUS: FRIEND OF SINNERS (ALL KINDS)

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

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." Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. "Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii,[a] and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

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. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." Luke 7:36-50

Do you have a puppy or kitten? Maybe you have a dog or cat but remember what it was like when they were young. It seems that puppies and kittens love all people no matter what. They just like to climb on, lick the face, and sit on the lap of anyone. They even do that to people who do not like them or appear to have no interest in them. That's the kind of love Jesus has for us. Our Bible reading shows how Jesus loved a woman who didn't think she could be loved. Jesus loved her anyway. There is an old song that speaks about Jesus and His love for people. I am sure you know it. "Jesus Loves Me" is a favorite. Why not sing it right now as a family. See if you remember all of the words. If you don't want to sing why not say the words together.

Pray: *Thank you Jesus for loving me. Help me to tell others about your love for them, too. Amen.*

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

The week of JUNE 23/24

JESUS: FRIEND OF SINNERS (ALL KINDS)

#2 *You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6-8*

Are you thirsty right now? Yes? No? Well the next time you get thirsty imagine that you go to get a drink and you have a choice between two glasses. The first one is dirty, the second, clean. Which one would you choose to drink out of? Now imagine that God looks at people and decides who to choose based on how good and clean they are. The apostle Paul thought about this in our Bible reading. He knew that people might choose to love and help people they like, or people who are good. But, Paul felt that no one would want to choose people who are terrible. Thankfully God doesn't look at people that way. The truth is, because of sin, none of us is clean. God wouldn't choose any of us if we had to be perfect and good. But God did choose us. He chose all people because when He looks at us He sees Jesus. Jesus had to be perfect and then die on the cross for our sins. Jesus was perfect for us. It was a hard job to do. It's sure nice to know that Jesus did this for us and that we never have to worry about being clean enough or good enough for God. It also means that we can tell all people that God chose them because of Jesus as well.

Pray: Dear God, thank you for loving me and sending Jesus to be my Savior. Thank you for loving all people. Help me to tell everyone about your love for them. Amen.