

The 747 Woman

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Lesson 1 She is a Sinner

The 747 woman doesn’t have a name, maybe that’s because she is “everywoman”. She is: a daughter, granddaughter, sister, sister-in-law, mother, foster mom, step-mom, mother in law, grandmother, wife, divorce, widower and sinner.

She has been deceived. She has allowed her beauty to be defined by others. She has allowed her body to be used to buy and sell. She has allowed herself to be devalued to the point where she has no control over her life. She has given up and has become who her culture says she is………a sinful woman.

However truth says, “We have all sinned and fallen short of the gospel”. (Romans 3:23). This means ALL.

1. All who have put man before God.
2. All who love the things of the world more than loving God.
3. All who have misused the name of God by the word or thoughts.
4. All who have not kept the Sabbath to rest and put God first.
5. All who have not honored their mother and father.
6. All who have murdered.
7. All who have committed adultery.
8. All who have stolen.
9. All who have lied.
10. All who have wished they had what others have.

There is no one, no not one who is right. (Romans 3:10). We are all sinners. We are all the 747 woman. So, she is me and she is you.

The original 747 woman will be our guide on this journey. You will find her in the Bible in the book of Luke, chapter 7 starting in verse 37 to verse 47. I think of her in our modern day culture too. I think of her as a woman who can no longer stay where she has been. She packs her bag taking her most valuable and favorite perfume. She boards a Boeing 747. Other passengers look at her like she doesn’t belong. There is one seat left next to a man who has kind eyes. Eyes that say, “sure, you can sit here”. She isn’t certain what her destination is or if the plane might crash. She only knows she can’t stay in the life from which she has come.

 Now let’s get on with it. Do you want to stay here in lesson one, or do you want to move out of this place. Are you ready to risk and get on the runway to take off. There is only One Way to do it. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the Life”. (John 14: 6). If you want a different life then get on board. The available seat is next to Jesus. If you are afraid of the take off and fearful of the flight, just take His hand, (Isa. 41:13). He will never let go. He will guide you to the right path which He has made just for you. He will tell you the truth when the truth seems so foggy. He will give you a new life, one that you could never imagine.

But you don’t have to do it. He doesn’t want to control you. If you are not ready, He will wait patiently for you. However, we don’t know **the hour or the day,** (Matt. 24:36)that our time will run out. I encourage you to take the risk now, no time will be any better.

This journey from sinner to saint is amazing but tough. The 747 woman must be courageous. She must be able to protect herself from outside negative forces. She must see herself as God sees her and not as others, including herself, see her. She must stand up for herself when everyone else is sitting. She must break out of the comfort of old ways of doing things and strive to become a new creation. She will be a new unique creation, not conforming to her peers or cultures.

Are you ready? Fasten your seatbelt. Let’s face your fears. Remember, Jesus is still holding your hand. Hold tight, next we are to come face to face with a great fear, Rejection!

Summarize this lesson’s scripture

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

Question: What does fall short of the glory of God mean?

Romans 3:10 “As it is written, there is no one righteous, not even one”

Question: Does this righteousness have anything to do with how God loves you?

John 14:6 “I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”

Question: Do you really think that Jesus is the only way to God the Father. Why

Matt. 24:36 “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father”

Question: What is this scripture referring to?

Lesson 2

She is Rejected

Rejection leads to being alone. “The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone.” Genesis 2:18. From the very beginning, we were created to be in community: God, man and woman, children, family, neighborhood, city, county, state, nation, world, universe. God himself is in community with the trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And we were made in His image, (Genesis 1:27). Have you ever been pushed out of your community? Is there anything worse than rejection? Jesus felt it when He was on the Cross, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matt. 47:26).

Can you remember times of rejection? Of course you can. And with the memory, comes a rush of old hurts and emotional trauma. However, you are a 747 woman. You are courageous and Jesus is holding your hand. Now let’s turn to the original 747 woman and read and think about how she was rejected by everyone, except the One holding her hand.

Luke 7:36-39

She wasn’t invited. It was an important dinner party given by an important person. She wasn’t good enough because everyone in her community knew her sins. Now, remember the scripture, Romans 3:10-18. So the point here isn’t that she was the only sinner at this party. She was the only one whose sins were known or public. Let’s survey the room through Jesus eyes. There is Simon the host. He thinks he has never done anything wrong. Jesus sees pride. Jesus lays him out in verses Luke 44-47. Then, all of the guest unknowingly admit their sin. “Who is this who even forgives sins?” Luke 7:49 and “The righteous will live by faith” (Romans 1:17). Their own words magnified their sin. They didn’t believe Jesus was the son of God, because after all “only God can forgive sins”, Isa. 43:25.

It is interesting that the scriptures do not tell us the 747 woman’s sin/sins. This is such an important fact. This is a truth that is revealed through what is not said. God doesn’t want us to label her sins, it is enough that we know she is a sinner, just like we all are. (Romans 8:23). However, the people at that party seemed to know what her sins were, or what others had told them about her. “Her sins, which were many” Luke 7:47, caused her to be rejected by her community. I wonder what caused her to have the courage to believe that Jesus would not reject her. I believe she had faith.

Faith is both tangible and intangible. Romans 10:17, “Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. Also, Hebrews 11:1, “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”

Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence not seen. Jesus said, “We were all given a measure of faith”. What is measure; a cup, teaspoon, or anything we need.

In other words, if you were a kid that always got chosen to play on a baseball pick-up game, your faith would be pretty strong that you would be chosen to play at the next pick up game. If however, you the kid who always is last to get chosen, your faith would be pretty week. Odds are that you will get rejected to play in the next game.

Thank goodness, God does not play the game that way. He chooses obedient and coachable people.

“Many are called, few are chosen”, Matt. 12:14. “God’s ways are not man’s ways”, Isa 55:8. God chooses by looking deep into the heart. He is looking for a “sick to death of living this way” heart. He is looking for a heart that needs a transplant. Jesus “did not come to seek the healthy but the sick”, Matt 9:12. He is looking for a person of faith. You can’t please Him by being the best one on the team, but by being obedient to His coaching. Many want to play, few want to be obedient.

And now, let’s go back to the original 747 woman. She must have lived with rejection if others knew her as “the sinful woman”. She must have heard the mumbling as she walked the streets of her hometown. I can assume from the scriptures that she lived in the city where this party occurred, (Jerusalem) or she had at least visited the city regularly. “Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often Jesus has invited you but you didn’t come.” Matt. 23:37. She must have heard of or even witnessed some of the miracles Jesus performed. I wonder if she was in the crowd when the “woman, who had been suffering from bleeding for 12 years, touched the hem of His garment”, Luke 7:43. Jesus didn’t reject “her”. Or maybe she heard about the Samaritan woman who Jesus “asked to give Him a drink at Jacob’s well”, John 4:7. Jesus certainly didn’t reject “her”. He even talked to her and allowed Himself to be served by her and to then serve her and her community. Then, in the Book of Joshua, chapter 2, there is the story about Rahab, the prostitute. God didn’t reject her either, He even allowed her to be grafted into the lineage of King David and to the Messiah, Himself!

Maybe her ability to overcome another rejection that night was a combination of faith and rock bottom despair. A despair like the widow who made the prophet Elijah a cake with the last drops of oil in her cupboard. So, we now have faith and despair. These characteristics are the combination whereby a spiritual chemical reaction can occur. God will now use them to transform a heart. He will transplant even the heart of a sinful woman.

The 747 woman had faith in the heart transplant surgeon, and the oil she carried with her would be the antidote against the rejection of that new heart. So she headed to the party with her alabaster jar, resolved.

Do you remember being rejected, or having a fear of rejection?

Why will Jesus never reject you?

Are you coachable?

What is in your alabaster Jar?

LESSON 3 She is Misunderstood

In order to understand this misunderstood woman, we must look at what happened as though we are watching a stage play. We will examine the cast of characters at this dinner party as well as setting the stage for the story God is about to tell.

God is the story teller, through Luke’s words. God is the director and producer. He has set the stage, and chose the characters. The main character is Jesus, who God is glorifying. Next, comes the sinner turned saint, the sinful woman. The host turned to toast is the Pharisee, Simon. The seconds, who are in the background, are the disciples and the guests who were invited by Simon. Oh and of course the staff, who only take orders from Simon. God Himself had Jesus sit at the table in just the right spot so that the very first thing the 747 woman saw in that room was Jesus feet and how they needed attention. PAY ATTENTION! The main plot is about Jesus and the subplot is about the sinful woman, the host, Simon and the others at the dinner party. God is drawing attention to His beloved Son, who was the only one in the room who was without sin and in true fellowship with God the Father. This is the filter we must use to understand the story, His story.

Sometimes when I read the scripture, I misunderstand the meaning. Most of the time, I can empathize with the characters, try to see where they are coming from and put myself in their shoes. However, what I fail to do, most of the time, is to remember that the scriptures are a love letter from God to us. He is telling us all about Jesus and how we can be in relationship with Him. So, although the 747 woman was misunderstood, the whole passage is misunderstood if we highlight anyone other than Jesus.

Question: Why did God put it on the heart and mind of the Pharisee to invite Jesus for dinner? Why did God give the sinful woman the faith to crash the party?

Answer: For the same reason He invited Peter and John to the mountaintop to reveal His son’s true identity. “This is my son whom I love, listen to Him”, (Matt. 17:5).

Answer: To tell us that Jesus was not just the only one there without sin, but that He is the only one in the universe without sin. He is the one and only Son of God. God also used all those at the dinner party to teach us that He will and does allows sinful people to be used by Him in order to glorify or magnify His Son.

God invited the 747 woman to that dinner party in order to glorify His Son. The others understood that she was a sinful woman, what they misunderstood was that she was handpicked to be used by her Creator.

What drew the sinful woman to the party that night? She must have been use to going to parties in the night. She knew her way around the nightlife. Had she been to Simon, the Pharisee’s house before? Maybe, she knew where he lived. However, this party had an unusual guest of honor, Jesus. Most people in the city of Jerusalem had heard Him speak. His words were different then that of the religious leader, Matt.7:29. Jesus spoke of love and forgiveness for all people. Maybe this is truly what drew the 747 woman to Him. But her sins were so great, how could she be in the presence of a truly holy man. Maybe, if she brought a very special gift to Him, then maybe, He would understand her motives.

Though the 747 woman was a vessel being used by God, those at the dinner party did not understand. In fact, the misunderstanding of her really grew to new heights when she brought out the alabaster jar.

Oh, the alabaster jar! It is the one thing that the “world” truly understands. It represented money and lots of it.

Today’s cost of that alabaster jar would be from $24,000 to $32,500. It’s contents of spikenard is a fragrance which was brought from the Himalayas to India to Israel in alabaster vessels. Spikenard comes from a flowering plant called Valerian. It is made of pure nard. It was also used in medicines to relax people, as well as being used in the temple worship. Judas objected because it was a waste of money. Spikenard is available in today’s world and has medicinal uses, (cited – Please Help Me Rhonda.com).

Oh how money defines and divides us. And oh how it divided those at that dinner party. Now let’s take a look at the host, Simon the Pharisee.

Simon was a Jewish religious leader. He knew all the rituals of the law and followed them to the extreme. He loved being a Pharisee. It provided him with respect, honor and the best seat in the house. He had been intrigued with Jesus and His teachings. But he kept Him at arms length until that night of the party. He wanted to invite him to get something from Him, rather than serve Him. He wanted to control Him. He certainly didn’t want to go all out for Him. Probably didn’t have the choicest of food for Him. He certainly didn’t have anyone wash His feet or bother to greet him with an honorable kiss. So when the 747 woman comes into the house there is not too much commotion until she opens that expensive alabaster jar! What is she doing! Why is she wasting this on “Him”? Simon and the others begin to discuss this ridiculous waste of money. Simon was jealous. No longer was he the most honored man in the house, his house, but this situation was completely out of his control.

Jesus takes control. He becomes aware that His Father is glorifying Him, the only one in the room without sin. Jesus now takes the opportunity to glorify His Father by admonishing Simon and forgiving the 747 woman.

How does Jesus admonish Simon? Jesus is quite aware that Simon does not yet believe in Him. Simon does believe Jesus is a teacher. Luke 7:40. How many people, even today believe that Jesus was just an amazing teacher, but do not believe He is who He has always said He is, “the Messiah, the Son of God”. . Matt. 26:64. Simon also does NOT believe that Jesus is a prophet because he says, “If this man was a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of a woman she is-that she is sinner.” Luke 7:39. I love this part, because in his disbelief, he speaks truth. Jesus is both a Prophet and more, but also fully knows this woman is a sinner. Then Jesus in His infinite mercy tells Simon that He has something to tell him. Then He waits for the teachable moment when Simon says, “Tell me teacher”, Luke 7:40. Maybe this is the first “Simon Says” game, where we can do something if the leader says, “Simon Says”. Maybe we should all use his words, “Tell me, teacher”. Ah ha, and Jesus seizes the moment. Jesus allows Simon to keep his respect as host by asking him a question about debt and debtor, Matt. 7:41. Then Jesus respectfully disagrees with His host. Jesus now turns and looks directly at Simon and begins to highlight his sins, publically. Luke 7:44-46

And now Jesus publically vindicates the newly forgiven woman, Luke 7:47. Finally, she has been understood by the only One who could understand her, her Creator.

Finally, the “seconds” in the play have a few words which will give them their 30 seconds of fame, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” Luke 7: 49. There it is! In their question, God has given everyone at that party the answer and glorifies His Son. Isa. 43:25 “ONLY GOD CAN FORGIVE SINS”.

Done! The 747 woman goes from earthly bonds to heaven’s freedom. “Your faith has saved you; go in peace”. Jesus will not let her scares define her.

God would never let the scares of the cross to define Jesus. Rather, the scares on His hands, feet and side would define who she was in Him as He took all her sin on the cross.

Why is important to let go of our scars?

Believing that “only God can forgive sins”, how can we forgive ourselves and others?

How do you know that Jesus truly understands you, even when others do not?

Lesson 4 She is Truthful

“What is truth?” John 18:38. Truth is a person. John 14:6. “One who loves rejoices in the truth” 1 Cor. 13: 6. “Truth will set you free”, John 8:32. Truthful is an adjective which describes a person who speaks and acts in truth. The 747 woman is truthful.

The topic of lesson 4 is a great transition from the first three lessons to the last three lessons of this bible study because the 747 woman, she was always truthful. Trust me, I understand that she is a sinner, now a forgiven through grace sinner, but truthfulness was never a fault. If it had been, she could have lied her way out of being the public sinner. She was like the girl in the library that got pinched and yelled out and got in trouble and probably got kicked out of the library. She is who she is. She doesn’t know how to cover up her mistakes. She just becomes her mistakes. She is the proverbial “bad girl”. However, one of the good things about being the bad girl is you can identify hypocrites.

Jesus warns us of hypocrites. Matt. 6:5 “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men”. Then, He goes on to say, “I tell you the truth…:”. Remember, what Jesus said to the Pharisee who gave the dinner party. He said, “Simon, I want to tell you something….” When Jesus, the living Word, begins a sentence…..”I want to tell you……get ready to hear the truth because truth is speaking. We can’t hide our hearts from Him. He knows when we sin. And how extremely stupid are we to think we can hide that from God. However, that is a trap that mankind has fallen into since the beginning of time, when Adam and Eve hid from God after they disobeyed Him in the garden. Genesis 3:10. A hypocrite hides his sin from God. That is until he/she comes face to face with the creator and there is no where to hide.

The 747 came face to face with her creator the night of that dinner party. She came as a sinful woman, full of sin. She came so close to Jesus until she could touch Him. Then her sins began to spill out onto His feet through her tears. The more sins, the more tears, until she was empty. And then, love took sins place. “God is love” 1 John 3:14. The vessel of the woman’s sin was deep. More and more love filled it until it overflowed. The extravagance of love took over and she broke the alabaster jar and poured the perfume onto His feet. Then she let down her hair to wipe his feet as if she wanted to wipe all her sins off of His feet. Truth was in her. The perfect exchange was made; a sinful woman who came clean to her Savior. God’s perfect picture of how we bring our sin to Jesus, truthfully.

Before meeting Jesus, the 747 woman was truthful to a fault. Always getting in trouble and not knowing how to cover up her mistakes. Her whole life seemed like a mistake. Now, she felt valued and loved and forgiven. She was a new creation, 2 Corinthians 5:17. The scriptures don’t tell us what happened to her for the rest of her life. After all, this is His story. He is the main character. However, in 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 the scriptures give us a narrative of what happens to all of us after we bring our sin to Jesus truthfully.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old as gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

 2 Corinthians 5:17-21……….*The 747 woman is Christ’s ambassador.*

Do you have sins you are trying to hide from Jesus?

Do you need to come clean with Jesus?

What would you like to be set free from?

Do you have a ministry of reconciliation?

 How can you be an ambassador for reconciliation?

Lesson 5 She Forgives

“For if you forgive others, so will your heavenly Father forgive you, but if you do not forgive others, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you.”(Matt. 6:14-15).

When a butterfly comes out of that cocoon and becomes a new creation, old behaviors are left behind, new ones are learned. One of my favorite children’s books is “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” by Eric Carle. There is only one thing on the caterpillar’s mind……eating. He eats through one apple, two pears, three plums, four strawberries, five oranges, then gorges on a lollipop, chocolate cake, pickles, watermelon, sausage, etc.. Now, with the world’s greatest stomach ache, he eats through a leaf and finds a place to crash and pulls the cocoon blanket over him for a good long rest. Suddenly the warmth sun begins to soften the cocoon and the caterpillar pushes out and emerges a new creation. Nothing the caterpillar did changed him into this new creation. But it happened by God’s design, and now he felt free to fly and become the creation for which he was destined.

Sound familiar? The 747 woman was trying to fill her belly with anything to appease her appetite in this life. That is until she got so sick of it that she couldn’t take it anymore. She covered herself with the dark evening and attached herself to Jesus. The “Son” softened her heart and she emerged a new creation. A forgiven woman.

As we said previously, she is an ambassador of reconciliation.

Now forgiven, she can begin to forgive others. So, so, many others, those in her past, her present and her future.

It’s a new day. She can feel the deep, deep love which lies just beyond being forgiven. He knew all that about me and still forgave me. He let my sinful tears pour out onto His body. He let me give Him my most precious gift. He let me dry His feet with my hair. He loves me!

Surely, if He can forgive me this way, I can learn to forgive others. I want to be like Him, a forgiver.

But how? I don’t innately know how to fly like the caterpillar. But wait…..I am the 747 woman. I can board the plane, find the seat next to him and hold His hand. This time, I notice the scare on that hand, which has been “pierced for my transgression”, (Isa. 54:5). Tell me Lord, how to pray, how to forgive, how to live. Now I realize that we are flying together!

Side note: The Lord heals in many ways. Sometimes very quickly almost in an instance. Other times, He may use other methods. I would like to recommend two books to you. “Forgive for Good” by Fred Luskin. Fred Luskin is a professor at Stanford University. He teaches classes in Forgiveness. I have found his teaching life changing. He has personally given me permission to use his class handouts and his research to teach a 10 week course on Forgiveness. I have taught it in small groups, with individuals on a one to one basis, and even in a woman’s prison. I have been blessed to observe as Jesus emotionally heals through this process and I believe it is my life’s work. If you would like to go through this process of forgiveness, please contact me at: srastatter45@gmail.com

The second book is, “Six Stages of Forgiving Others”, by Georg Karl. This book was recommended to me by my pastor. I found it very helpful. It could be considered the second part of the forgiveness process which is reconciliation. This book will give you thought provoking examples of how to restore a relationship and move on to a deeper and lasting relationship. A truthful relationship, which is full of giving and forgiving.

Is forgiveness a suggestion or a command by God?

Why do you think God knows that we need to forgive ourselves and others?

Do you still have a secret sin that you have not asked God to forgive? If so, now is the time!

Lesson 6 She Loves

When true forgiveness takes hold then loves becomes unconditional. Love, like forgiveness, is a choice. Not only does the 747 woman choose to love God, herself and others, but she does not base her love on how others love her.

But what is love and how can we define it and how does this love change the 747 woman and how does it change you?

In the English language there is only one word for love, “love”. But in the Greek there are four: Storge (familial, affection); philia (friendship); eros (romantic); agape (spiritual, divine).

I believe that in order to truly understand what God is teaching us through this lesson; we must go deeper in our studies about love. Instead of boarding a plane this time, we are going swimming.

Do you remember when you first learned how to swim? Do you remember the excitement of lifting both feet off the floor of the pool or lake? Remember also when you first swam under the water surface, it was exhilarating! Now it is time to go deep sea swimming.

God, who is love, 1 John 4:16, teaches us about Himself through himself. I told you we were going deeper, and to do so, we are going to study the thoughts about love through diving into C.S. Lewis’ book, “The Four Loves”.

C. S. Lewis, (1898-1963, philosopher and author,” Chronicles of Narnia”) in his book, “The Four Loves”, ponders the Greek definitions of love while interpreting them through a lens of Christianity. In his belief, he forms a perfect picture of a merciful God the Father, who teaches His children how to love, Jesus, a vessel of love who is both the container and the contents of the container of love, and the Holy Spirit who is the conduit who moves the love to God and to each other. When we have begun to grasp the enormity of love, we will go back to our 747 woman and in going back realize how the story in Luke is primarily about the love of the trinity to one another and then the giving of the love to us, the sinful woman.

It is helpful to me to consider C.S. Lewis’ deep thinking about love in visual terms. I think of a birthday present. I have selected a large box so that I could include 4 items. Then, I select the paper and ribbon to wrap the present. Before wrapping the present, let’s make an analogy of not only the items in the box but the wrapping paper and ribbon as well.

The items in the box are: storge, philia, eros, and agape love. The wrapping paper is what C.S. Lewis calls “Need Love”. Need love, covers all the four expressions of love. However, as far as agape love is concerned, need love does not “need” to be covered by the giver because the giver, who is God, is the initiator of the gift. He chooses to give a piece of himself while remaining completely whole. Therefore, when we say God is Love, He does not “need” love, He is love.

What is “Need Love”? It is a basic form of natural love. And because it is a natural form of love, it will end when the need goes away. Some examples: nursing baby, sex, protection, provision, help etc..

Need love flows in and out of storge, philia, eros, and agape, (although with agape the need only goes in one direction, our need for God).

Gift love is the ribbon that ties up the entire package, even agape love. All love, storge, philia, eros, and agape, is a gift from God. He chooses to give us love and experience love in these ways so that we will learn about love, learn about Him. In the Agape love, He chooses to not only give us love, but to receive our love. So why does he start out giving us need love. It is much like if you wanted to give your one year old child the best birthday present ever and that present is to have him/her be an architect. You would not give that child a college text book on architecture. No, you might give him/her a set of building blocks.

Now for the contents of the present. C.S. Lewis went into great philosophical discussion on these four loves. His thought processes were wonderful, witty and interesting. I would encourage you to take time to read this thought provoking book, “The Four Loves”. However, for our time restraint, I want to take the contents of this present and put it into a story about a marriage relationship.

This is a story about Larry and Mary. Larry and Mary were raised in the same rural community. Both had been raised by famiies, who loved and cared for them. They, in turn, loved their families and felt a commitment and belong to their respective families. They each had friends and were even blessed by best friends. They each experienced the closeness of friendships which helped them bond into a strong froup that could stand up against outside forces. Mary and Larry remained attached to their friends, however a natural attraction occurred between just Mary and Larry. This attraction moved them into a relationship whereby they wanted to be alone, just the two of them. Their ned for intimacy moved into a need for sexual expression. Eventually, Mary and Larry were married. Children were born and Mary and Larry experienced a newfound love towards their children. Sometime later, Mary began to experience feelings of unfulfillment. She had needs which were not being filled and so she began searching to fill those needs outside her marriage. Soon, she was living an adulterous life, moving from one lover to another. Larry was aware of the change in their relationship. He sought counseling from his pastor, who encouraged him to seek God and His will in their marriage. Mary’s needs were still not being fulfilled, even though each affair had offered such fulfillment at the start. All had ended and the need remained. Eventually, one of her lovers had offered her financial security, so she decided to leave Lary for what seemed like an eternal love. Again, that relationship ended and now she found herself, homeless, pitiful and scared. Concurrently, Larry had found a lasting and fulfilling relationship with his creator. He still loved Mary, but recognized that she too would have to live out her life’s journey and that it might not be with him. Then, one day a friend told Larry that Mary was living in a homeless shelter. She had come to the end of herself and was simply lost. Larry went to the shelter and when his eyes met Mary’s his heart swelled and all that love he had for her poured out into forgiveness. He embraced her and the love she felt coming from him filled her heart. She was home. This story of Mary and Larry is closely related to a book in the bible called Hosea. It is also a story of our relationship with our creator. The loves that Mary and Larry experienced in their lives are the contents of the gifts of love God gives to us, (storge, philia, eros, and agape).

If in the simplest of forms, we can understand that God is the giver of all these loves, even the natural ones which will eventually come to an end, then we can begin to understand that God is teaching us about himself through love. And when we come to the end of the natural loves and cry out to him, that we truly need nothing but His supernatural love, does He give it to us in the form of His Holy Spirit. And not only does He give us this supernatural love but He infuses it to transform us to be able to love others and ourselves. We now open and receive the entire present. It fits and fills us and it is given out and is replenished. It is living water and new everyday. It is Love. It is God.

I want us to now transport our minds back to the dinner party in Jerusalem. I want to refresh your mind to remember who is the main character? What is the main plot and what are the subplots?

The main character is Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit. Three in one person, the main character.

Other characters, the Pharisee, the 747 woman, the disciples, the other guests and the servants.

The theme behind the main plot is God the Father allowing us to witness His love for Jesus and Jesus allowing us to witness the love relationship between Him to the Father through the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit transforming the sinful woman by infusing Himself into her as perfect love. You might want to read that again.

As with all scripture, it is primarily all about God, and how He is revealing Himself to us and how we try and fail to grasp all there is in the revelation.

And so it is with the humility that I can not possible understand all that God is revealing in these passages, I believe He is revealing that He is love and that He can use whoever He wants to help reveal that to us, even a sinful woman.

Let’s break the story down again, humbly interpreting it from God’s viewpoint. God the Father loves the Son. He has said so many times in scripture, (Matt. 3:17, Matt. 7:5, 2 Peter 1:17, John 15:9). And He uses imperfect people and imperfect circumstances to reveal His perfect love. So, it might go something like this: God the Father uses the Pharisee’s pride to prepare the dinner party. He knows the Pharisee does not love Jesus, even in a storge or philia way and certainly not in an agape way. He doesn’t give Jesus a kiss of affection upon entering his home. He doesn’t clean his feet even though it is tradition and the natural thing to do, and he cannot and did not anoint Jesus head with oil. So God the Father chooses a woman, a sinner, to bestow His love on Jesus. The “gift love” is the best of perfumes, the extravagance of love. God, the Father will use her tears to wash the dirt from the feet of the Beloved and use her kisses to give affectionate love. And because she had known eros love with men, He might have even used her knowledge of touch to massage his feet. Now, because God is God and He alone can give all these love gifts, He gives Agape Love, which infuses the Holy Spirit into the woman, pushing out her sins and filling her with a love which transforms her into a new creation. Jesus aware of this transformation then testifies to the truth that this woman is full of love, because she now possesses an eternal love; therefore her sins have been forgiven. Jesus then does what only agape love can do, and says to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” Luke 7:48.

This is a perfect picture of perfect love. God’s gift of infusing His love through forgiveness to create an eternal love in an imperfect woman.

And now for the ending that we always want to hear “And they lived happily ever after”, because “God is love”, John 4:16 and love is eternal, 2 Ch. 5: 13

Questions:

Can God love the unlovable, if so why?

Why is Agape love so important for us to receive?

What must the Pharisee do to receive Agape love?

Do you want the gift of Agape Love?

Lesson 7 She is Peaceful

The number “7” is God’s perfect number, it reflects completeness. This is the last lesson in our Bible study about the 747 woman, which is found in Luke Chapter 7. In the last verse, (50) of chapter 7, Jesus says to the 747 woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” The “Prince of Peace”,(Isa. 9:6) has just given the 747 woman her life mission, “Go in Peace”. It is not a job description telling her what to do, rather it is truth, telling her who she is. Here, like love, peace is a person. He who gives peace is peace, (Eph. 2:14). “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called daughters of God”. Matt 5:9

The 747 woman has been transformed from sinner to child of God. She has been welcomed into a family who will never reject her. She will be completely understood, because her Father will know her needs even before she asks, (Matt. 6:2). She will never fear truth, there simply is no room for fear, (1 John 4:18), and the Truth will always be with her and guide her, (John 14:6) and (John 16:13). She forgives, as she has been forgiven. She loves unconditionally, loving God with her whole heart, mind and soul, and loves others as she loves herself.

The original 747 woman boarded that plane even before man could fly. She could not stay where she was and she wasn’t sure where she was going. She did trust the man with the kind eyes and He took her to paradise with Him. She is continuing to love in the kingdom of God because she received the gift of the agape love through indwelling of the Holy Spirit. She is finally at and with Peace in His fullness of grace and glory.

This journey is possible for every woman. Thank you for taking it with me. If you know of another woman who doesn’t know where she is going but can’t stay where she is, please share this study or another suitable study that will guide her to return to her creator. He is pursuing her.

Open discussion and/or journal on entire study.