

## “A HUMBLE DEVOTION DISPLAYED”

By Mary Mayko



Luke 7:36-37 KJV “And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee’s house, and sat down to meat. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at meat in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster box of ointment”

We see Simon, a Pharisee who was a very religious man who seemed to be interested in *Jesus*! Although he invited *Jesus* to eat

at his house, he showed no sense of honor as is indicated when we see the joy expressed by *Zacchaeus*, a tax collector, who was probably *not a* religious man! In Luke 19:5-6 the little man who had climbed up a tree was told by *Jesus* he was coming to his house that day. Interestingly, *Zacchaeus* showed *Jesus* great honor and excitement and came out of that tree quickly! Another tax collector named *Levi* (Also named *Matthew*) and was unlikely very religious also, yet made a great feast honoring *Jesus* and showing it was a time for celebration! (Luke 5:29) We see no such joy or honor in *Simon the Pharisee*!

Isn’t it interesting to see how differently people view and treat *Jesus Christ*? We still see some of these same attitudes in people we know today. Some want to know *about Jesus*, while others seek to know *Him personally*! *Simon the Pharisee* wanted to know *about Jesus*! Luke 7:37 “Behold!” This word tells us something important is being revealed! This *sinner woman* came into a religious *big shot’s* home without an invitation! Normally, *Simon* would *not* have offered her an open door! Who is this woman who entered *Simon’s* house? A *sinner woman*! *She desired to know Jesus on a personal level*! This means *Simon* was stating a known fact. This woman had a bad reputation! She may have been a prostitute, as indicated by some Versions, or a moral leper, but at the very least, a woman who was considered *unclean*!

This woman was never identified by name in the Bible. I believe in the Lord’s wisdom, He left out some details so that all who need to, can identify with the problem! She must have been aware that her actions could have had severe consequences, but her desire to pour out her devotion to *Jesus* shows it to be more important and greater than her fears! She displays great courage yet humble boldness as she entered the Pharisee’s home! Clearly her plan to come to *Jesus* was not an impulse, but very well thought out! Perhaps she had been searching for Him as He ministered around the Sea of Galilee.

For whatever reason, she knew she had to pour out her gift of love and devotion when the opportunity availed itself no matter the cost! It is very clear she had a goal and would let nothing stop her from getting to *Jesus* personally! No sitting on a back row for this woman! She had to get near enough to touch him! It seems likely she had seen and heard Him ministering to others or He had spoken to her in the past. Something about this *Jesus* had touched her heart and gave her hope!

This alabaster box would have been an expensive treasure! This box would have been a cruse or vessel made of alabaster stone. Alabaster was carved limestone from cliffs or caves. It often had swirled colors through the white stone. The woman probably would not have broken the box or bottle, as Mary did in Mark 14:2, but would have broken the seal made of wax. The ointment or fragrant oil was made from imported oil of a root from Himalaya or special desert grass, and was very costly!

This sinner woman demonstrates great courage and a humble spirit in the face of opposition. Does her determination encourage and inspire you when facing some extreme obstruction or opposition? Have you ever felt what you did in the past was so bad you wonder, *how* could God ever forgive you? Did you come in humble devotion before the Lord anyway? Would you be willing to give your most expensive possession to the Lord? Why or why not?

Luke 9:25 “For what is a man advantaged if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?”

1 Peter 5:6 “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.”

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Mary Mayko 2010



### “THE FATHER IMAGE”

By Mary Mayko

1 John 2:14 LB “And so I say to you fathers who know the eternal God, and to you young men who are strong, with God’s Word in your hearts, and have won your struggle against Satan” vs. 24-25 “So keep on believing what you’ve been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will always be in close fellowship with both **God the Father and His Son**. And He Himself has promised us this: *eternal life*.”

**“He’s just like his father!” “He’s the spitting image of his dad!” “He’s a chip off the old block!”** Some of us have heard these statements made when a child looks so much like the father, that, when you look at one, you see the other! They also appear to walk, talk and act, have the same habits as he does. Jesus said this about His Father and Himself! Listen to His conversation with Philip. John 14:9 LB “Jesus replied, “Don’t you even yet know who I am, Philip, even after all this time I have been with you? **Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father!** So why are you asking to see Him?”

What is *your concept* of God the Father? Many say our image of Him is influenced by the kind of earthly father we have/had. Yours may have been helpful and kind, or absent or abusive. Only you know for sure how your relationship with or without your father could be. I have heard this from many Ministers and Teachers over and over again in the past few years! That his image could be pretty clear or quite fuzzy! Some times Ministers would present God the Father more with a hand of wrath than a heart of love! As a child, I had respect for His Word, but the Image I had was one of an angry God watching my sins and just waiting to punish me!

My own Dad was far from perfect, but I adored him! Now I never considered him to be just like God the Father, but always thought of him as a devoted and godly man. The only time I ever feared my Dad was when I deliberately did wrong! I knew I deserved correction, and was assured I would receive it. I never considered Dad to be unkind or abusive with me at those times. I knew he loved me too much to let me get by with bad behavior! Dad’s hands were helpful, healing, and protective! Only after I was grown and begin to read the Bible with a spiritual eye, did I consider *my early Image of God the Father* was so far from what and who He really is and what He does for us!

As I reflect on how my earthly father really treated me as a child, I now realize he had many more of God the Father’s traits than I could see all those years ago! As a small

child, I felt Dad's love and safety as we walked along a street at night. I had no need to be afraid, he was holding on to me! If I got tired or sleepy, he would pick me up and carry me. I often fell asleep in the shelter of his warm strong arms! I thought he was the strongest and bravest man in the world! When I did wrong, he never held resentment, but was quick to forgive me, reminding me only once why I had been punished so I would not repeat the mistakes.

As I have learned so much more about God the Father's real Person, I reflect on my Dad's character, and see he was so much more like his Heavenly Father than I ever imagined! I can see and hear the image of Dad calling the family together for Bible reading and prayer before bedtime as a young child. When I grew older and sometimes went astray, his tear stained hands covered his face as he cried out for his family! When I finally returned fully to the LORD, he clapped his hands joyfully as he praised the LORD!

I was privileged to be at Dad's side as God the Father was calling him Home. Daddy's hands now folded quietly, as life was ebbing from his body. Suddenly his eyes opened and I saw them filled with delight as he looked up. I knew The Father was reaching out to receive my Daddy as he then closed his eyes in perfect rest. My Dad is no longer with me in person, but his image remains an important influence on my life!

Psalm 31:15 "My times [life] is in His hands." This gives me assurance that one day I too will be with my Father! There are certain seasons in our lives when the Image of our Father can grow rather dim! It may seem that He is not looking over us, protecting us, loving us, and *that dimness can distort our thinking!* This is when Satan comes along with his lies! "God doesn't see or care about your afflictions! If He did, why are you suffering? Maybe you did something once too often and God just can't forgive you anymore!"

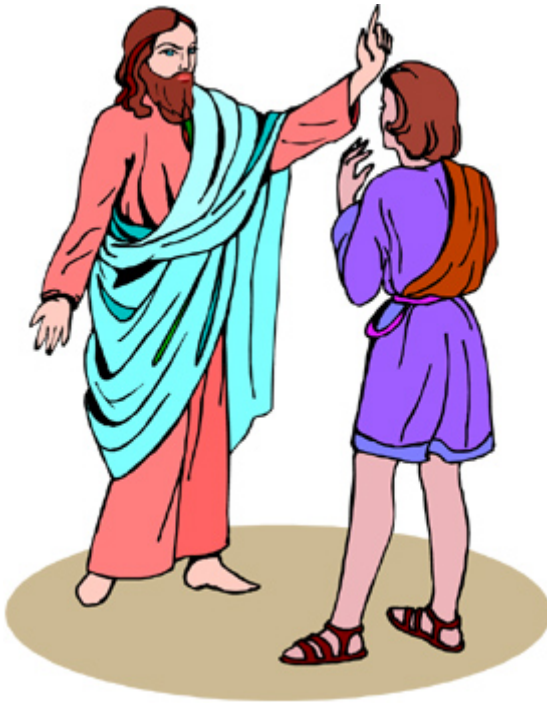
Ah! Let us then do as Jesus did! He spoke the Word of God the Father right to Satan's face! That WORD is more powerful than we can imagine! Listen to John 10:27-30 KJV "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck [snatch] them out of my hand. *My Father, which gave them to me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one.*"

What comfort to know that no matter what is going on in our life, no man can kidnap or take us out of God's hand! He really is in control! This should quiet our spirit and helps us rest in Him and His promises! He always keeps His Word. **What a great Father!** What is *your Image of God the Father? Does it need an adjustment?* If you ask, He can clear it up for you!

Matthew 28:19-20 KJV "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the *Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:* Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: *and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world. Amen.*"

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Mary Mayko 2010



## “PROMOTION TIME!”

Rev. J. Kehl Golding

It's hard to think of June and not think of promotions, graduations and the end of a school year. Another chapter in life ends.

We get so excited about “Promotion Day”! The date is set aside, special clothing must be considered, folks attend from near and far to support us, and celebrate the occasion. We tend to forget it's been a long and difficult journey to this day. There have been major snow storms to consider, “rain storms to “get about” in.

Financial sacrifices because money was due for this activity, course or event. Hundreds of “brown bag” lunches, missed buses, and

endless tests to study for. There has been much discipline by the graduating student, as well as people supporting him. Many, many hours of study and sacrifice by those teaching him.

To make a long story short, it's been a continuous work for many years, by many people for this “great moment”. One item a school usually encourages is pride in its standing among other institutes of learning. They encourage students to behave in a manner worthy of their name.

I suggest you read Paul's letter to the Colossian church. He spends the first 20 verses of chapter one exalting our LORD Jesus Christ. He makes certain we understand Christ must be in a place of “Pre-eminence” in every area of our life and thoughts.

He uses strong language to get our attention that we might “walk worthy” of the Lord. Col.1:10 He makes it clear it's a “continuous” work and walk to attain to. Notice some of these strong phrases found in the first chapter of Colossians. In 1:9 He makes clear the importance of prayer. “We do not cease to pray for you!” So many times the Word makes it clear do not cease to pray, to ask for our needs, whatever they are.

Pray that we are filled with the knowledge of His will in our life, in our desires, in His wisdom and spiritual understanding. So many times in the natural, things seem to be one way, but God is clearly pointing in another way. That is when we need His understanding wisdom and faith to follow Him.

In 1:10 Paul reminds us of this continuous work by using the word “walk”, not “run,” not “depart” or “move away”, but WALK with Him, and be worthy of Him. His name CHRISTIAN, producing “fruit” for His Kingdom, and always increasing in His knowledge.

In verse 12 he reminds us to give thanks unto the Father which has made us worthy to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints. How is this done? Peace is made possible through the blood~ the blood of the Cross. We were alienated, even enemies of God by

our wicked ways, but now we are reconciled unto Him by the shed blood of Calvary. 1:20-22.

Read carefully how Paul writes this; “Giving thanks unto the Father, which both made us worthy to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the Kingdom of His dear Son. In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.” 1:12-14.

This portion of scripture is so important today, when all must be “politically correct”. I do not believe a Christian can be politically correct, for this idea embraces too many untrue statements and ideas, some being sin according to the Word of God.

Paul said this could happen in 2:4 as he warns of men that would beguile [deceive] you with enticing [good sounding, but alluring to evil] words. These words are easy on the ears and minds and seem reasonable. **But** as we received Christ, received His Words in the Book, so WALK IN HIM~ let no one draw you away from what He has spoken.

Walking daily with Him will cause us to be rooted in Him, built up in Him, and established in Him, and increase our faith in Him~~ for PROMOTION DAY!!!

**But WATCH 2:8! BEWARE! WATCH OUT!!** Lest any man spoil~ ROB you through “philosophy” and “vain deceit” after the TRADITION of men, and the rudiments [principles] of the world~ “being politically correct” and NOT AFTER CHRIST!”

**AND** that is important because “IN HIM DWELLETH ALL THE FULLNESS of the GODHEAD! 2:9. We must stay in Christ, in the Word NOT heeding false teaching of any kind because He’s the Godhead in the flesh, and has conquered Satan, demons, powers of darkness, even death. 2:10-15.

“The WISE shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools [reward] Proverbs 3:25. Beloved, we can’t have it both ways in our spiritual life, anymore than in our physical life. The one who fools around with his education or his job does not get promoted head of the class! He may not graduate at all, in a job, he may even be dismissed.

The one who “fools “around in his spiritual walk or rejects God completely may be very disappointed on “Promotion Day”!! Listen to some of the words of Christ concerning our daily walk with Him~ all leading to “Promotion Day”!! “Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.” John 15:14 “He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, it is he that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me, shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest [show] Myself to him.” John 14:21

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

Beloved, the King of Kings invites us to walk with Him, let us walk worthy of His calling until Promotion Time!

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