

**Intro:**

We are going to think about the emotional, expressive aspect of loving God.

This may be strange for some:

- We're not the emotional type. Yes, we are all different- some of us are not as emotional as others. But we all are emotional. The issue is what we get emotional about.
- We're not the spiritually emotional type. Again, that is understandable- we are all different. But perhaps there may be something for us to think about as we look at the Bible today.

Read Text: Luke 7:36-49. Share your initial reactions with your neighbors.

**We ought to love God emotionally and unhindered.**

Text: we see this as this woman lets loose- her tears, her actions that cross what is socially proper (her presence, the hair, the kissing of feet)

This sort of exuberant, emotional love is asked for in the Bible. See Ps. 63:5-6, Ps. 37:4, Rom. 11:33-36

This sort of love is understood in our everyday interaction. Disinterested love is not love at all.

**Clarifications:**

- 1) Loving God does involve more. This is a part of loving God with heart/soul/mind/strength (Luke 10:27). It's not just about emotions. But it's not less than emotions.
- 2) Loving God involves more in terms of obedience. This is part of a total life change, a part of a life of walking in obedience to what Jesus wants. "Go in peace" (v.49)- peace in context doesn't mean just tranquil thoughts or feelings. It refers to the holistic, good life that God intended for his creation, one not marred by evil. So to go in peace means to walk in the good life God intended, to walk in obedience. John 14:15
- 3) This is Jesus glorifying emotion, not self-glorifying. Not that we can't get anything out of loving God- in fact, I believe we ought to- we out to have great joy in the process. But it's a joy in God.

Challenge: Do we need to let ourselves go more, be unhindered?

**Loving God more is fueled by knowing His forgiveness more fully.**

What there is to know about His forgiveness:

*It involves an embrace*

- a) Involves an embrace of where we are, regardless of how unacceptable we seem. The woman's prostitution, her supposed "contagious" status.

*It involves knowing something*

The knowing involved here: Forgiveness is a cancelling of debt (v.41-42)

We owe God something. We owe him obedience and worship. He is holy: holiness= otherness. Have you ever been in someone's presence where you felt so small compared to the person's greatness? It's like that times infinity. He is holy, and out of that holiness he deserves ultimate respect, worship, obedience. But we have not delivered. As a result He has every right to hold us responsible and allow us to experience the consequences- judgment out of His holiness as God. But he has dropped the debt. He has done this in Jesus- ultimately in his death, where Jesus says "I will take the consequences they deserve."

But it doesn't stop there. It's not just a taking away of something we deserve. It's a giving of something we don't deserve. The word used here has at its root the word "grace," the giving of something we don't deserve- the life and love of God. The peace mentioned in v.49.

*It involves a process*

The woman apparently has come because she has already experienced it (v.47- note the "because" clause as a proof clause, not reason. ). Yet she is afforded the opportunity to hear Jesus' words in a unique moment (v.48, 49). Note: her stepping out allowed her to experience more.

There is growth, there are seasons of experience.

**Application: How do we know His love more fully?**

1. Praying for the Spirit's revealing work. Ephesians 1:16-18
2. Build on the knowing: a) Get in the Bible. b) Read books that open up God's character in the Bible.
3. Step out.

**Extra Study Notes:**

This anointing scene is different from the scenes of Matt. 26:6-13, Mark 14:3-9, and John 12:1-8 (which most likely describe the same scene).

Extra reading on God's character (new and old classics):

The Holy Wild, by Mark Buchanan

The Ragmuffin Gospel, by Brennan Manning

Knowing God, by J.I. Packer

The Pleasures of God, by John Piper

The Good and Beautiful God, by James Smith

The Holiness of God, by RC Sproul

The Knowledge of the Holy, by AW Tozer