

Church of God Sunday School

PARABLES OF JESUS: THE TWO DEBTORS

Luke 7:29-30, 36-50

Many people came to hear Jesus while He taught in Galilee. Among these people were Pharisees (the self-righteous religious leaders of that day), who often found fault with Jesus. They "rejected the counsel of God against themselves."

One of those Pharisees (*FAIR-uh-seez*) was a man named Simon. After hearing Jesus speak, Simon invited Him to go to his house to eat a meal. Jesus went with Simon and "sat down to meat," or sat down to eat.

There was a woman in the city who was known to be a great sinner. She learned that Jesus was at Simon's house. While they were eating, she entered Simon's house and came to where Jesus was.

This woman brought an alabaster box of ointment. This ointment was precious and costly. What was she going to do with it? As she stood at the feet of Jesus, she was weeping. She began to wash Jesus' feet with her tears and wiped His feet with her hair. She kissed His feet and then anointed them with the ointment from the alabaster box.

This was shocking behavior to Simon the Pharisee! No doubt, he had heard many bad things about this woman. He thought to himself, "If he [Jesus] were a prophet, [He] would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner."

Simon did not speak out loud, but Jesus knew what he was thinking. Jesus said to the proud Pharisee, "Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee." Jesus told Simon a parable, or a short story.

There were two debtors who owed a creditor (or a moneylender) money. The first debtor owed five hundred pence, and the second debtor owed fifty pence. Both debtors could not pay the creditor. So the creditor freely



forgave them both. They would not have to pay him the money they owed. Jesus then asked Simon, "Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?" Both debtors had been forgiven their debt, but which one would be the most thankful?

Simon answered Jesus, "I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most." Jesus said to Simon, "Thou hast rightly judged." The one who was forgiven the greater debt would love him the most.

Jesus said to Simon, "I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet." It was customary to offer guests a basin of water and a towel to wash their feet, but Simon had not done this. This woman washed Jesus' feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. Simon did not greet Jesus with a kiss, but this woman continually kissed the feet of Jesus. Simon did not anoint the head of Jesus with oil, but His feet were anointed with the woman's costly ointment.

Jesus said to Simon, "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little." Then Jesus said to the woman, "Thy sins are forgiven." Talking among themselves, the people who sat at the table with Jesus said, "Who is this that forgiveth sins also?" They failed to understand that the very Son of God was sitting with them!

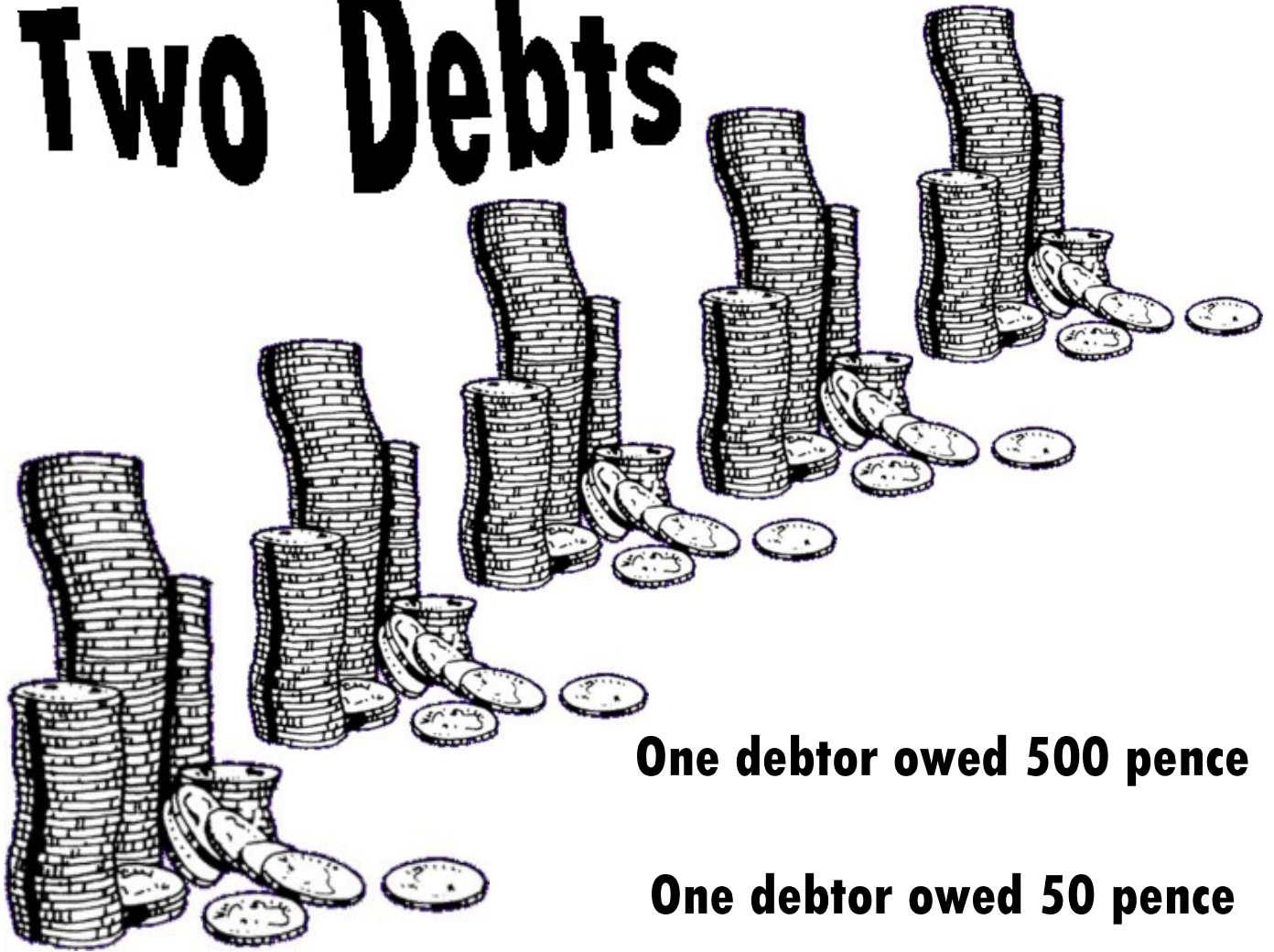
Jesus told the woman, "Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace." This woman was like the debtor who was forgiven a great debt. Her many sins were forgiven! How she must have loved Jesus!



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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"We love him, because he first loved us."*  
—1 John 4:19

# Two Debts



**One debtor owed 500 pence**

**One debtor owed 50 pence**

**How much more did the first  
debtor owe?**

**500 - 50 = \_\_\_\_\_**



# Fill in the Blanks to Finish the Story



Jesus was invited to  
the \_\_\_\_\_  
of Simon.



A woman anointed  
the \_\_\_\_\_  
of Jesus.



Two debtors owed  
a creditor  
\_\_\_\_\_.



Both debts were  
\_\_\_\_\_.



\_\_\_\_\_ said to the woman,  
"Thy sins are forgiven."

## Word Bank

- Jesus
- forgiven
- feet
- house
- money