

## It Is Probably Just a Sign of the Times...

It is probably just a sign of the times, but there is something really troubling me.

I am troubled at times by my lack of the display of love I have for those around me. There are times in my life that my heart is so full of love for someone, and I just am seemingly unable to express just how great that love is.

Further, there are so many folks in my universe that seemingly are going out of their way to express anything but love for their mate. Some after 20 plus years are giving up and calling it quits. The enemy must really be rejoicing over those decisions.

Though I often hear: 'I love you' – well "I love you more" as a response often times doesn't cover it.

When we read from Luke Chapter 7 of the discourse Jesus had with the Pharisees it brings to light maybe one of the problems we have with actual love for someone else.

Jesus explains how the woman in this room is displaying for all to see just how much love she has for Him.

She is kissing and cleaning His feet with her hair and her tears, and doesn't care who is watching. She is outwardly expressing her affection for the Lord and so Jesus asks the Pharisees a parable concerning two people who owe an amount of money to someone. One owes 500 the other 50. Neither one has the ability to repay the debt, but Jesus says that they both were forgiven of the debt.

He then asks the question, One guy owes 500 denarius (approximately \$450.00) the other owes 50 (approximately \$45.00) but they are forgiven equally.

Jesus asks them "which of the two will love the forgiver more"

They answered correctly – obviously the one who owes the most and is forgiven.

Jesus then uses the woman who is caring for Him who was obviously below the standards set for themselves by the Pharisees and probably a prostitute and asks the question – See what she is doing? How that her care for Me is so much more visible than what you have done.

Jesus says; Her sins which are many are forgiven and she loves much, but him who is forgiven little (as some folks think about themselves) loves little.

For those of us who very often come up short in our ability to love others would look realistically at our lives, we might come up with the truth that we do not see ourselves as bad as others.

We may think that our lack of love for our mate or our children, or even our neighbor, has nothing to do with whether we see ourselves as needing forgiveness, but that is not how Jesus sees it.

Lord, be gentle with us, but as much as is needed, reveal our hearts to each one of us so that your love will be revealed more to us. In turn as we learn more about ourselves, we may be added to the ranks of those who can truly claim "I love you more"