



SHEROES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT
***A Woman* – From Sinner to Servant**
Women's Discipleship Group - Terri McFaddin
Series #1 Lesson #3

Scripture Focus: *When a woman who had lived a sinful life in the town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them (Luke 7:37-38).*

Key Words: **Woman** – (Greek) **Gune`** - A female, married or unmarried. It is also a term of endearment. Jesus called his mother Mary, *gune`* or woman.

OPENING STATEMENT: The phrase "*a woman*" is used no less than 30 times in the gospels. Without a doubt, stories of women whose names were mentioned only briefly, or women who remained nameless, contributed to the formation of the New Testament Church. It is important to understand that namelessness does not mean that these women were without power or without influence. The following are examples of nameless women of the New Testament that left a lasting impression:

A woman with the issue of blood touched Jesus and was healed. Luke 8:43

A woman was loosed from a spirit of infirmity after 18 years. Luke 13:11

A woman came to Jesus with an alabaster flask and anointed him. Matt. 26:7

A woman of Canaan came to Jesus with a demon-possessed daughter. Matt. 15:22

A woman at the well left her water pot to proclaim... "Come see a man!" John 4:29

A woman caught in adultery was brought to Jesus and forgiven. John 8:3

The 7th chapter of Luke tells the story of a nameless woman that boldly entered the house of a prominent leader of the Pharisees in search of Jesus. Once again, you are probably wondering why I call this woman a *shero*. I want to list 3 important reasons.

1. This woman is a *shero* because of her courage. *Jewish* women were extremely oppressed in biblical times. The Pharisees were a religious body of men that wrote and enforced the laws that oppressed women. Take the time and read the story of the nameless woman in Luke 7 who defied Jewish traditions and broke into a house full of Pharisees in order to see Jesus. This lady had heart!
2. This woman was a *shero* because she willingly faced the possibility of public humiliation and rejection when she fell at the feet of Jesus. She could have been ridiculed or scorned but she took the risk in order to find redemption and deliverance. She was not only a risk taker, but she demonstrated that she was a woman of great faith.

3. This woman was a *shero* because she may have been one of the women who after her conversion gave financial support to Jesus and his disciples. She apparently was wealthy because she anointed Jesus with a very costly perfume. Luke 8:3 states that many women followed Jesus and provided for him from their own money. Because of her previous life as a sinner, her Jewish family would have disowned her. Joining in with the women that followed Jesus would allow her to find the spiritual nurturing and acceptance that she needed.

OBSERVATIONS: What does the Bible tell us about the sins of the woman in the 7th chapter of Luke? How did the Pharisees respond to her? How did Jesus respond to her?

INTERPRETATION: What is the meaning of the parable that Jesus tells the Pharisees in Luke 7:(41-42)?

PERSONALIZATON: The woman that broke into the Pharisee's house had to overcome obstacles and take risks in order to get to Jesus. What obstacles or risks did you have to face in order to have a relationship with Jesus Christ?

APPLICATION: It's time for you to encourage someone that is fearful about taking risks in their spiritual life. Come up with a plan of action and break into their space with the good news.