

The Woman with the Alabaster Box

A True Story
With a Powerful Message

A Devotional
from the  of Lara Love
& Walk by Faith Ministry

The Alabaster Box:
A True Story with a Powerful Message

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Bible verses from King James version.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORD

I have an insatiable hunger for the Lord. I can't get enough of Him, nor of His Word. How could God take a woman utterly broken beyond imagination and entirely useless for decades who grew up in a Jewish family that didn't believe in God and was once an atheist and turn her into a woman of faith, hope, love, and joy who has dedicated her life 24-7 to Him and to telling the world about Him? He can do anything. I would dare to imagine there was nobody as messed up and hopeless as I was, and now I spend my days captivated and consumed with love for Him as I seek Him relentlessly, feast on His Word passionately, and put together the puzzle pieces He gives me of scriptures He places on my heart as I am called and privileged to humbly proclaim the Gospel and bring messages from Him and His Word to a broken world that is in indescribably

desperate and dire need of Him as I was and still am and will ever be.

When I sought the Lord over and over and desperately at that about whether He wanted me to write a new devotional and what subject it might be about if He did, words poured loudly and emphatically into my heart. **THE WOMAN WITH THE ALABASTER BOX.** I hurried to the Bible story about the woman with the alabaster box with which I was already well familiar and dove deep into the verses, poring over them, studying them, taking notes on them, asking God questions, seeking Him, praying, meditating on them, taking them with me as I did daily chores, leaving them for little bits of time and then hurrying back to them, again and again, wondering would God answer me about writing a new devotional? Had He led me to these verses for a new devotional? Or just for my own personal growth?

What would be the message from these verses if in fact I was meant to write a new devotional?

How frustrated I was when I only heard Him say into my heart, “Keep seeking me.” Maybe I should just quit seeking Him about the verses and the devotional, I thought. I was exhausted from all the studying and seeking, though believe it or not all of this had occurred in a matter of just 24 hours or so. But tenacious as I am, I sought Him still, hungrily, thirstily, still wondering and pressing into Him. What would God say? How would He answer?

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

He ultimately gave me three other scriptures in addition to the ones about the woman with the alabaster box, and made it clear it was in fact time to write a new devotional. Then, after I studied further with increasing hunger to hear what He had to say and see what He would show me, He poured the message into my heart He wanted me to deliver; He helped me put together the

scriptures that at first had seemed like random puzzle pieces, forming them in the depths of my heart into a life-changing message. I was astonished at what He revealed to me, and knew without a shadow of a doubt the message needed to be delivered – and heard. And if those who heard, and understood, the message would be convicted, I knew emphatically, their lives could be forever changed if they chose in fact to commit themselves unreservedly and utterly to Him.

What could seemingly random verses from seemingly random parts of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible about knowing God, honoring God, and calling Jesus Lord have in common with a seemingly random New Testament story about a sinner woman with an alabaster box who crashes a dinner party, so to speak, where Jesus is the featured guest? It all really seemed so random. But God had a purpose in all this. Granted Titus 1:16, Isaiah 29:13, and Matthew 7:21-23 are all enormously powerful

scriptures that at first glance might have some sort of a connection with one another, but even if they did how could they possibly fit with the dinner party story? As I dug and dug and dug into the story about the woman with the alabaster box, I could not for the life of me figure out what I might have been missing from all the times I had read and studied the story before. But no matter how many times I walked away from the verses, I felt strongly compelled to come back to them as though I had in fact been missing something. Finally, everything fell into place. How easily I could have missed the message, but the Lord clearly had not turned me loose. And though I had been frustrated in trying to figure it all out, I had been ultimately determined not to give up on hearing what the Lord had to say.

3 SEEMINGLY RANDOM SCRIPTURES

Tit 1:16 “They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”

Isa 29:13 “Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:”

Mat 7:21-23 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?”

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

While I had only quite recently stumbled upon Titus 1:16, and had been struck by the power of its meaning, I had studied Isaiah 29:13 many times before, and had studied and written on and spoken about Matthew 7:21-23 numerous times. As seemingly random as they might appear, I knew definitely they were not. In fact, they were for me

some of the most convicting verses I have ever come across in the Bible.

Why? Because God so clearly is telling us that we need to get our acts together. In each of the scriptures, He is making it clear that no matter how we try to appear on the outside, He sees the real deal. And what He sees is not as it always may appear to the world around us, let alone does it always fit with what we have convinced ourselves of. A deeper look at all three of these scriptures can be entirely life-changing, if we will pay heed to what He is truly saying. But before I take a deep dive into how they fit with the message He has given me, let me say this. Not only did I have great difficulty figuring out if He was trying to show me anything new about the story about the woman with the alabaster box, but I could not understand how He might be linking these three scriptures with that story. Not until I kept seeking Him, that is, and until the answer became incredibly clear.

THE WOMAN WITH THE ALABASTER BOX

In a nutshell, the story about the woman with the alabaster box is about a dinner party thrown by a Pharisee who has invited Jesus to dinner. The Pharisees were known for being caught up in appearances, trying to make everything look and sound good, believing they could earn their way to God through obeying the law perfectly, religious perfectionism, and for judging and pride. The man must have been horrified when a “sinner” woman showed up from the city with her alabaster box of ointment, which in our modern times might be like a bottle of pricey perfume. Picture the perfect dinner party in the upscale suburbs, when an inner city woman from the “opposite side of the tracks” shows up uninvited. Long story short. The woman stands behind Jesus and weeps over His feet, thereby washing them, and drying them with her hair and kissing them. She pours her expensive

ointment over His head as in those times people did with anointing oil.

The Pharisee criticizes her harshly, and Jesus rebukes him. Interestingly, the Pharisee does not voice his criticism, probably because he is caught up in looking and sounding good. Jesus responds to him because He can see and hear what is in the Pharisee's heart.

Jesus chastises the man for not so much as lifting a finger when He arrived at the dinner, not giving Him water to wash His feet, a kiss to greet Him as was apparently done in those days, nor anointing Him with oil. But even before Jesus chastises Him, He teaches him a lesson with a little parable. Jesus uses the parable to teach that the more sins someone has that are forgiven by God, the more that person will love God. Clearly, this woman who is considered by the Pharisee to be a horrible "sinner" has much reason to love Jesus in regard to her sins and His forgiveness. At the end of the story, in fact, Jesus declares her sins

are forgiven and says that this is so because of her faith in Him.

GOING DEEPER

On the surface, there is no doubt the story of the woman with the alabaster box carries with it a wonderful lesson about loving the Lord because of His forgiveness. In fact, I was so convinced this probably was what the Lord wanted me to focus on in studying this story yet again that I almost missed the message He in fact was trying to reveal to me. And it was not until I started to put the pieces together, meditating on this story along with the other 3 scriptures, that I began to see what God wanted me to realize.

As I read through the story over and again, I felt as though God were tugging on my heartstrings trying to get me to notice something I kept overlooking. Then I saw. While I had taken notes about the woman and her actions and what they

might in fact represent, I had neglected to see something. The woman, from start to finish of the story, is entirely silent. She does not say a word.

And there it is. When you read the story about this woman, you will notice her love for the Lord is overflowing, and she is so devoted to Him and to demonstrating her love that it as though nobody else is there. She is consumed with her love for Him. From the moment she walks into the place, until the Lord says she is forgiven and remarks on her faith and essentially says goodbye and to go in peace, it is as if she cannot see anything or anyone else in the world but the Lord. He is undeniably the love and Lord of her life.

Her love is so intense, passionate, and evident, that she is willing to risk the ridicule and hatred and judgment of all those present at the dinner party, which apparently is not just one Pharisee but multiple ones. She loves the Lord so much that she literally reaches out to touch Him. She has no religious pretenses about her whereby she is trying

to put on any kind of religious show based on man-made religious traditions. She is emphatic about being in fellowship with Him and getting as close to Him as she can possibly get.

She humbles herself by lowering herself in His presence. She stands behind Him and washes His feet with her tears, which makes it appear that she must have bowed down to the ground such that her tears are able to reach His feet. Why does she weep? The Bible does not say. Perhaps she weeps with her boundless love for Him. Perhaps it is because she is so convicted of her sins merely by being in His presence. Perhaps it is because she knows He will go to the cross. Maybe she is overwhelmed with joy at being so near Him. Perhaps it is some combination of these. Regardless, she cannot hold back her tears. And rather than leave them on His feet and run, she reaches down to wipe them with her hair. Another act of love and tenderness, of indescribable care. It is known that in those days people's feet were

filthy because they walked barefoot in the dirt or at most in sandaled feet.

This does not hold her back from this act of love.

Every detail of her actions with Jesus, down to pouring expensive perfume over Him, is rich with love and honor and submission and closeness and relationship. She holds nothing back. She does not hold back because she is worried about what anyone will say or think. Nothing holds her back from loving Jesus in her actions. Yet she says not a word.

HOW THE SCRIPTURES FIT TOGETHER

When I first felt the Lord showing me how she remains silent, I skipped quickly ahead to other aspects of my study. But deep within I felt led to go back and have another look. And when I studied the other three scriptures, I finally knew what message the Lord wanted me to deliver.

In Titus 1:17, the people SAY they “know” the Lord. But they continue in their sins and disobedience, not leaving behind the ways of this world and their self-centered lives. They “profess” to “know” God, but their lives prove otherwise. To profess involves speaking.

In Isaiah 29:13, the people “honor” God with their mouths, or WORDS, but their hearts prove otherwise. They live their lives according to the traditions of humans and live according to the fear of humans rather than the fear of God as we are called to live. In other words, they are more worried about how they appear to others than they are with pleasing God.

In Matthew 7:21-23, the people who expect to get into heaven and be with the Lord have the door shut in their faces by Jesus because though they CALL Him Lord, their lives prove that they have not made the changes in their lives indicating that they truly consider Him to be Lord. Sure, they have done stuff in the name of the Lord, and think

they can somehow earn their way to Him. But Jesus says He never knew them. In other words, they have not been in fellowship and relationship with Him, and they stick to their evil ways instead of doing the will of God. It is all about words and appearances, isn't it?

What do these scriptures have in common? WORDS. All of these people SAY with their WORDS they know and believe in and honor God. But their lives prove otherwise!

What about the woman with the alabaster box? She has NO WORDS; she is silent. But Jesus clearly honors her. Why? Because her life is one of love for Him, and she is in intimate fellowship with Him. She does not stand at a distance as the Pharisees do putting on appearances for all to see and convincing themselves all is right with the Lord. She hangs on to Him for dear life. She is willing to forsake all for Him. She gives of her heart and her time; she makes Him her focus and priority. She cleaves to Him.

Jesus doesn't honor the ones who talk the talk. He honors the one who walks in love and adoration, in honor and reverence, in submission, in steadfastness and loyalty, in truth and sincerity, as she is, the one who is humble, who is raw and real and weeps over his feet, who gives of her expensive perfume, who pours out her love upon Him.

WHAT ABOUT YOU AND ME?

Oh, how easy it would be to say these scriptures and story are from long ago. They are little bits of the Bible to spend a few minutes thinking about, perhaps to point the finger and comment upon how others have chosen to live their lives. But God's Word is for us today, and there is a life-changing message in this for you and me.

Countless times, I meet people in my ministry work who say they believe in Jesus. They tell me how they go to church, or Bible study, or own

Bibles, or got saved long ago, or committed their lives to the Lord at a church service, or grew up in a Christian family, or have believed in God for as long as they can remember, or pray to God every day, etc. They say Jesus is their Lord; they tell me they believe in God. But if the truth be known, many of them have no relationship with God whatsoever. They met the Lord in some encounter long ago. Their lives look no different than they ever did. If Jesus Christ walked down the street and said hello, they wouldn't recognize Him.

They have no relationship with the Lord. They may pray, but they don't know anything about Him. They say they believe. But the Bible says even the demons believe (James 2:19). They think they have a free ticket to heaven because they profess to know the Lord. They call themselves Christians. But their faith for all intents and purposes is little if anything more than words. How can their minds be renewed, how can their lives be transformed, how can they live for the

Lord, if they rarely if ever open their Bibles, or if they open their Bibles and don't bother to do what the Bible teaches? They do not spend time with Him, sit at His feet, praying, studying His Word, repenting, seeking Him, making changes in their lives to please Him, hearing Him, finding and pursuing His will for their lives.

If they were invited to a dinner party with Jesus as the special guest, they would be far across the room with the Pharisees pretending to be what they are not. They would be the ones adhering to the traditions of men instead of learning about and committing to the ways of God. The last thing in the world they would do would be to walk across the room, bow down to the ground, and weep over the feet of Jesus as they poured out their love and adoration for Him, uninhibited, unabashed, unashamed, just totally in love with and in obedience to the Lord.

What are the final words the Lord speaks to the woman with the alabaster box of ointment before

she leaves the dinner? He tells her that her faith has saved her. Her faith? But how can that make sense? She never says a word, right? She doesn't call Him Lord.

She doesn't tell the Pharisees she believes in Jesus or tell Jesus out loud she believes in Him. She doesn't tell them she knows Him. But look at her heart. God said the people honor Him with their mouths while their hearts are far away. She says not a word, but her heart is right there with Jesus. What saves her? Her faith! Not merely that she believes in who Jesus is, but that she knows Him intimately, up close, personal, that she is right where He is, in His company, loving and serving and glorifying Him as though nothing and nobody else in the world exists. Her faith is not in words; her faith is in her heart, her hands, her tears, her sacrifice of perfume, in the giving of her time, her passion for Christ, her total focus on and commitment to Him.

What about us? The Lord wants the same. He does not want only our words. He wants our hearts. He wants our lives. He wants our focus and attention and time. He wants to be our priority. He wants all of our hearts. He wants all our strength (Mark 12:30). He wants our service. He wants our passion. He wants our commitment. He wants our fellowship. He wants our reverence, honor and adoration. He wants our service. He wants our obedience.

He wants our genuine worship. He wants our praise. He wants our interest. He wants our submission and surrender. He wants us in His Word. He wants our love for Him and our love of one another. He wants us to proclaim Him to the world. He wants our sacrifice. He wants our very lives. And He deserves nothing less.

For He not only created us, but He sent His only begotten Son to the cross to pay the penalty for our sins so that if we repent and believe that Christ died for us, we will be forgiven and enter into a

relationship with Him now and receive the promise of everlasting life in heaven with Him instead of eternity in hell and the lake of fire so that we spend forever and ever with Him the beloved Father in heaven of all Creation. The woman with the alabaster box at that dinner party gives all of herself to Him. We should do nothing less not for an hour or two at a dinner, or perhaps a church service, or a once in a while perusal of the Bible, but for the rest of our lives on this earth as for those who truly believe in Christ and are sincerely committed to live for the Lord rejoice in the promise of spending forever with God.

Whether or not you have ever professed to know the Lord, or whether you have honored Him with your mouth, or whether you have ever called Jesus Lord, God sees your heart.

Is the way you are living your life evidence of true faith in Christ and a life dedicated to the Lord? Are you living your life according to the ways of this world, or according to the ways of the

Lord as the Bible teaches? Do your heart and life belong to the Lord, and does your life demonstrate this on an everyday basis?

There is no greater joy in the universe than the joy found in being in forever fellowship with God through faith in and a life devoted utterly, unabashedly, unashamedly, unreservedly to the Lord Jesus Christ each and every day and forevermore!



SCRIPTURES

Bible story of the woman with the alabaster box

Luke 7:36-50 “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, and stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

“And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith,

Master, say on. There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.

“Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. And they

that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.” Luke 7:36-50



The Best Message in the Universe

Ever since the first man and woman Adam and Eve sinned against God and were kicked out of their perfect lives in the Garden of Eden and lost most importantly their relationship with God, all humans have been born into sin which results in the curse leading to death and eternal separation from God in hell and the lake of fire. Why? Because we as sinners cannot be in the presence of a perfect and holy God. We all fall short of God's glory, and nothing we can do can earn His love, forgiveness, and everlasting life.

But God loves us so much He sent His only begotten Son Jesus Christ to the earth as a man, to

die a heinous death on the cross to pay the death and hell penalty for our sins by taking God's wrath at us for our sins upon Himself, and to be raised from the dead and to now sit on the right hand of God in heaven until He returns again as the final steps unfold leading to His forever Kingdom of heaven that will be filled with Christ's followers. If we are genuinely sorry we have sinned against God and repent of our sins, believe Jesus is the Son of God and died for us and was raised from the dead and is Lord, turning from our sins to a life devoted to God and His ways, we are forgiven and enter into a relationship with God and receive the promise of eternal life in heaven with Him! We are born again spiritually with a clean slate and saved from God's wrath, death, and hell and the lake of fire.

Belief in Christ as Lord is NOT an intellectual faith. Even the demons believe. True faith in Christ is an ongoing belief in Him, all that He is, did, is doing, says in the Bible, and a true trust in

Him as Lord whereby we turn from our wicked ways and live according to the ways God teaches us in the Bible. We are not called to just believe in Christ in our minds. We are called to follow Him by yielding to God our very lives and demonstrating in our hearts, words, and actions that we have turned away from the ways of the world and turned to the Lord. We are to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Him whereby we die to ourselves and live for Him. Countless people who believe they are going to heaven based on an intellectual belief, an emotional experience, church attendance, good works, etc., will be turned away by Christ and end up in hell and the lake of fire forever apart from God because they neglected to understand and put into practice that believing in, and following, Christ is a WAY OF LIFE of living for God!

God commands us above all else to love Him with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves (Mt. 32:37-40). Once born again, we must go

through a life-long sanctification process in which our minds are renewed by studying the Bible, our lives are transformed by God's Spirit, and we are conformed to Christ's image. Good works cannot earn our salvation, but good works should be the fruit of true repentance demonstrating we are truly living for the Lord. Our purpose is to love God, to love others, to proclaim the Gospel message to others and to help lead people into God's Kingdom as we follow Christ, using the gifts God has given each of us to bring Him glory while rejoicing in and enjoying forever fellowship with Him!

Spend time with the Lord daily, studying the Bible and learning to live by it, praising and worshiping Him, pouring out your heart to Him, praying and seeking His face, listening for His voice which will always line up with His Word, and loving and obeying and revering and fearing and honoring God through faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

Assemble in fellowship with fellow followers of Christ as God commands us whether in a church, Bible study, and/or house church.

As the world draws to an end, and God's judgment nears, evil and false teaching abound. Check everything you hear and read against the Bible because God only and always speaks in line with His Word. Anything not in line with His Word is not from Him.

Live day by day, breath by breath, to love and serve the Lord with all your heart forever! Rejoice in Him! Grow in Him! Live to bring Him glory forevermore!



Scriptures

“As it is written, There is none righteous, no not one.” Romans 3:10

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” Romans 3:23

“Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.” Eph. 5:6

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23

“The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.” Mt. 13:41-43

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” John 3:3-6

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

John 3:16

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” Rom. 10:9

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2:38

“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” Matthew 16:24

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Romans 12:2

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his

Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” Romans 8:29

“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:” Colossians 1:13

“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” John 8:12

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:” John 10:27

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 7:21



Special Invitation & Request

If you would like a free copy or copies to distribute of my *Finding the Light* Gospel tract, which includes my personal story along with the life-changing message of the Gospel written in a clear, simple, straightforward manner, please contact me using the contact information on the back page of this devotional. You can also see a copy of it on my ministry website.

I also have a special request. If you have finished reading this devotional and do not believe you will read it again in the future, please don't throw it away. Instead, would you consider giving it to a friend, family member, co-worker, someone you know well or a complete stranger, sending it in the mail to someone, leaving it in a public location where someone might pick it up, or giving it to whomever wherever you are led? Only God knows how He might use it to change the course of someone else's life on earth and eternity.

Love & blessings, **Lara**

About Lara Love

I am a 100% Jewish follower of Christ, evangelist & author & special needs & senior rescued dogs mom devoted 24-7 to loving & serving the Lord and helping people to become and remain forever followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.

For loads of love, encouragement, inspiration, & help, and to read my story & see my books, Gospel tracts & devotionals, & Daily Inspiration online, and to meet the ministry's very special dogs, please visit me and my ministry online & feel free to get in touch if you are led!



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