



ANOINT FRAGRANCE
 HONOR
 HUMILITY JESUS
 MESSIAH

How do we see the woman who anointed Jesus’ feet? With every gospel account recording the event, it seems to be very important. But there are several things about it that have troubled scholars for centuries - is it the same woman in each account?

In **Luke 7:36-39**, a broken, sobbing, unnamed woman enters the home where Jesus is dining. She anoints his feet with oil and tears, wiping them with her hair. The men present ridicule her and are offended because of her reputation. Did she have a reputation of being promiscuous?

In **Matt 26:6-13**; **Mark 14:1-11**, the woman anoints Jesus very soon before his death. Only **John 12:1-11** names the woman, Mary. What does this tell us about the woman? Is she a prostitute? And therefore, was Mary a prostitute prior to her meeting Jesus?

There is a great mystery surrounding the unnamed woman who anointed Jesus’ feet. But regardless of her full identity, it’s fair to say that she wasn’t just randomly wandering by a Pharisee’s house having a dinner party and happened to be carrying perfume that she spontaneously poured on Jesus, who would be the Messiah. No, she came with a purpose—to anoint her savior.

The woman in Luke’s anointing story challenges us to look at our purpose. What we see, and have, and know about our life is a gift from God that is to be used to honor God. Being prepared, being willing, and being humble enough to follow through with it might be the biggest challenge we face!

Paul encourages the Corinthian church to remember they all have a place and a purpose, by saying, “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work” (**1 Cor 12:4-6**). By realizing God’s purpose for our lives, we can find such satisfaction in knowing we are doing what God has called us to do, even if people don’t quite get it.

Read **Luke 7:36-43**

What did the Pharisees notice about the woman?

What was the purpose of the parable Jesus told?

Describe something you feel deeply grateful for being forgiven of.

How does forgiveness prompt better life choices?

What’s your purpose?

How do you know if you’re fulfilling it?

What do others think about your “purpose”?