

# Reflections Reflections from God's Word

by Kay Neff

## AMAZING LOVE

*Weeping, she began...wiping...kissing...  
and anointing His feet with perfume*  
Luke 7:38

Love can be risky: acceptance, rejection, embarrassment, fulfillment. Going out on love's limb. That's exactly what the woman with the alabaster jar of perfume did in Luke 7. Taking no thought for herself, she came with one purpose, to pour out her love on our Lord. Devotion to Jesus compelled her to venture all.

*Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him, and He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner."*

Luke 7:36-39

Her love was *risky*—"...He was...in the Pharisee's house" (v 37)

Her love was *willful*—"...she learned...she brought" (v 37)

Her love was *extravagant*—"...she brought an alabaster vial of perfume" (v 37)

Her love was *uninhibited*—"...weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume" (v 38)

Her love was *not intimidated*—"Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner'" (v 39)

Love is not passive. It bears itself out first in our resolve. Then it is revealed in our actions. A woman of the city, a prostitute in a Pharisee's house—love takes risks to serve.

Isn't this exactly what Jesus did for us? She determined to go into enemy territory. So did He. She came with an expensive treasure in an earthen jar intending for it to be

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broken, releasing its valuable contents. So did He. He came with glorious deity veiled in humble humanity, purposing to be broken for us. She was met with ridicule and scoffing. So was He. She freely poured out the precious perfume as an offering. He released the priceless gift of salvation and opened access to the very throne of His Father. She received life and forgiveness (vv 48, 50). So did we.

She came to give Him her most valuable possession. She received from Him a gift she could never repay. She came to give Him a love gift. She received the Gift of Love. Have you?

