



Title: Nelson Mandela

Luke 7:11-17

A Pharisee invited Jesus to have dinner with him, and Jesus went to his house and sat down to eat. In that town was a woman who lived a sinful life. She heard that Jesus was eating in the Pharisee's house, so she brought an alabaster jar full of perfume and stood behind Jesus, by his feet, crying and wetting his feet with her tears. Then she dried his feet with her hair, kissed them, and poured the perfume on them. When the Pharisee saw this, he said to him-self, "If this man really were a prophet, he would know who this woman is who is touching him; he would know what kind of sinful life she lives!"

Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Yes, Teacher", he said, "tell me."

"There were two men who owed money to a money-lender", Jesus began. "One owed him five hundred silver coins, and the other owed him fifty. Neither of them could pay him back, so he cancelled the debts of both. Which one, then, will love him more?"

"I suppose", answered Simon, "that it would be the one who was forgiven more."

"You are right," said Jesus. Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your home, and you gave me no water for my feet, but she has washed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You did not welcome me with a kiss, but she has not stopped kissing my feet since I came. You provided no olive oil for my head, but she has covered my feet with perfume. I tell you, then, the great love she has shown proves that her many sins have been forgiven. But whoever has been forgiven little shows only a little love."

Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven. The others sitting at the table began to say to themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?"

But Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Dear Lord,

We are the seed of Notre Dame and we can grow together as a family if we love our neighbours the way God taught us to.

Our college Mission Week helps us to have faith to accept that with his gift nothing will be impossible so we can truly live out St Julie's message to "do small things with great love".

St Julie and Françoise pray for us, protect us and bless us.

Reflect: At this time of year The Church asks us to pray for people who are living in countries and situations where they are oppressed or persecuted and their human rights are denied them. As I write this we are receiving daily media updates on the health of someone who lived for much of his life in a place where non-white people were treated as inferior beings, kept apart, given the worst places to live, denied a decent standard of living, etc. Nelson Mandela dedicated his life to changing that situation in South Africa, he spent a great amount of his life imprisoned by a white leadership that was determined to keep black South Africans 'in the corner'. Mandela eventually became South Africa's first black President and worked hard to bring equality to oppressed people in his country. In the reading (opposite) reminds us that we shouldn't judge people, it reminds us that we are all loved by God; Nelson Mandela fought to remind the world that race and skin colour should never be an excuse to treat anyone differently. It is our duty as Christians and as civilised human beings to ensure that no one is denied dignity or respect whoever they are, wherever they were born, whatever their beliefs.

How well do you treat people who are 'different'?

How can you promote tolerance and understanding?

Scripture

Pray for:

- Those who are oppressed or live in fear because they are 'different'.
- Those who work to promote peace, tolerance and understanding.
- People who are denied the most basic human rights.

With the right to expect to be treated with dignity and respect comes the responsibility to treat others the same way. You can't expect one without being prepared to do the other - make sure you play your part!



Lord, help us to try hard never to behave in a way that suggests to others we believe our rights are more important than theirs, for in doing so we become bullies and create victims. Let us always have in our minds the responsibilities You have given to us. **Amen**

Lord, it is our responsibility to act as examples to others. Help us to do this always: in our thoughts words and actions. **Amen**

Respect for all life

God our Father, inspire us with a respect for all human life:

from the time of the child growing in the womb to the point of death.

May that respect lead us to grow in a sense of responsibility for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world,

knowing that, where one person suffers and is degraded - all of humanity is belittled and abused.

May we grow in a sense of love and care for those less fortunate than ourselves, and lead us to do something about the troubles in our world. Amen

Dear God, who is maker of all people, all colours and all cultures. Unite us as one family, in harmonious co-existence. Show us how to appreciate and celebrate dignity, identity, history and tradition. Let us treat racism for what it really is: completely and entirely morally unacceptable; Wholly incompatible with your design for humanity. Make us a single family where racial superiority has no place. Instead, give us solidarity and peace, and a tireless drive to end discrimination. **Amen**

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. Nelson Mandela

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear. Nelson Mandela

It always seems impossible until it's done. Nelson Mandela