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**The Power of Brokenness**

Pastor Carter Conlin Timesquare church

"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 spoke 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"/ (Luke 7:36-39).

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> What was it about this woman's actions that prompted God to record it in the pages of Scripture, to be remembered throughout the generations?

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> First, we know that the woman was a sinner, although we do not know for sure what her specific sin was. She had with her a jar made of alabaster, a type of stone that was carved out to contain costly perfume. The only way to get the perfume out was to break the neck of the bottle. In other words, it was in the brokenness that the fragrance would be released.

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> Perhaps all this lady had left was contained in that alabaster jar. There were no banks back then, so this could have been the entirety of her savings—maybe even the wages of sin. It was a representation of all of her hopes, her dreams, her ambitions and her future. However, this woman found something so wonderful and profound about Jesus Christ that she took that jar, broke it, and poured the ointment out on His feet.

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