

**Lesson**

from page B5

was to recline on the left elbow on a cushioned floor with the head being closest to the low table and the feet farthest away (David C. Cook, Bible Lesson Commentary 2015-16).

While enjoying the meal, an unnamed woman who is described as having lived a sinful life hears that Jesus is at Simon's house for supper and arms herself with an alabaster jar of perfume and crashes the dinner party. She stood behind Jesus weeping and we might conclude that there were lots of tears because she used them to wash the savior's feet. Having no towel or cloth to use, she uses her hair to wipe His

feet and kisses them. By now the guest and the host are stricken with indignation that Jesus would allow this to happen and to add insult to injury, the woman breaks the seal on the alabaster flask and pours the perfume on Jesus' feet. Simon is convinced by this display that Jesus, despite His claims, is not a "prophet" because if He were, He'd know that the woman was immoral and thereby making Him ceremonially unclean. In Simon's mind, a true spokesperson for God would not allow this to happen. Simon said these things within himself. Jesus reads Simon's thoughts and responds, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. (Luke

7:40). Jesus uses the parable of the creditor forgiving two debtors of unequal debts. One very large and the other very small in comparison, but neither debtor is able to pay. The creditor, having compassion, forgives the debts of both men. Jesus then poses a question to Simon, "Now which of them will owe him more?" (vs. 42) Simon answers correctly that the one with the larger debt would feel more love. Now Jesus has effectively touched Simon's emotions, challenged his mind and activated his imagination. Parables are a way Jesus used to appeal to the "entire person." Now that Jesus has Simon's "entire person" engaged, He turns toward the woman and says to Simon, "Do you see this

woman?" (vs. 44) Jesus now compares how the woman and Simon treated Him. (Custom and etiquette say that water should be provided to cleanse the feet of one who has dusty feet from walking a distance.) Simon snubbed Jesus by withholding water for His feet while the woman washed His feet with her tears and dried them with her hair (vs. 44). Simon did not greet Jesus with a customary kiss (vs. 45), yet the woman has continued to kiss Jesus' feet. Finally Simon did not anoint Jesus' head with olive oil, while the woman covered Jesus' feet with costly oil (vs. 46). Jesus goes on to acknowledge that the woman's sins are many, but He forgives all her trespasses (vs. 47) for

she loved much. Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." (vs. 48). Simon and his guest understand that only God can forgive sin and so Jesus' declaration caused a sizeable stir. Knowing this and ignoring it as He often did, Jesus tells the woman that her faith saved her and that she could go in peace. Our take away here is that she came in house feeling distressed because of her iniquities, she departed with joy and inner tranquility of knowing she had been unconditionally forgiven. (David C Cook)

**For Your Consideration:** In what significant ways has God recently forgiven you? Why is it appropriate for believers to show gratitude to God for saving them?

**Life's Application:** Just because one person has committed a qualitatively different kind of sin than another does not change the fact that we all stand in need of mercy from a holy and just God. As we consider our own lives, what burdens of sin-induced guilt and shame do we find ourselves carrying in our own hearts? Jesus sees past our outer circumstances to the heart of the matter, and He longs to set us free from the burden of our sins. He extends forgiveness - complete, unconditional, all-out forgiveness - no matter how horrible the word, deed, attitude, or thought. Let us then respond in prayer to Jesus' offer of forgiveness.

**Dual**

from page B5

roots started, not only as a minister, but as a born-again Christian. He baptized me, married me, and I look to him as a father figure," Monroe went on to say.

Mt. Olive first opened its doors in 1909 on South Ridge Avenue. The church remained there until 1954, when it relocated to its current location due to the construction of Interstate 40 and U.S. Highway 52. The Rev. McQuater was Mt. Olive's first pastor. Several pastors who progressively brought the church forward followed him.

Under the leadership of Gray, Mt. Olive has renovated the building multiple times, adding additional seating as well as a large fellowship hall. The church has also initiated new ministries during his tenure, such as a youth department, dance ministry and a mass choir to name a few.

"It's a special day, and after 37 years, they just come naturally and you



Dr. C.E. Gray and First Lady Eula Gray receive anniversary gifts during the celebration of Gray's 37th anniversary at the church.

thank God for every anniversary," said Gray. "I like to stay humble because success can hurt you sometimes, especially when you start relying on people and things and not on God. I always try to put God first and depend on him on a daily basis from year to year."

During the celebration, choirs from both Mt. Olive and Solid Rock sang beautiful hymns that seemed to fill the room with energy. The anniversary committee presented Gray and First Lady Eula Gray with wonderful gifts of appreciation, followed by various members of the congregation giving cards and gifts as well.

Monroe preached an uplifting sermon titled "Don't Miss The Shadow," which he used to show how God uses influence to change our lives in a positive manner and shadows us in our efforts to do positive things.

Monroe said he was inspired to write his sermon because he thought about how God used Peter and he saw the same anointing in Gray.

"He has been the pastor of the same church for 37 years, and not only is he a model to other young ministers, he is a model of what it means to be faithful and committed," Monroe said of his admiration for Gray. After the service, both

**Mock**

from page B5

Lipscomb. Third place: Bridesmaid, Dahlia Thompson and Groomsman, Nicholas Brown. The flower girls were Genesis Graham and Morgan Halsey.

The youth of the church also provided the music for the mock wedding ceremony with soloist Anaisjah Williams singing "Usher Me," Isabella and Lula Jennings performing "Give Us This Day" and ChauDre Gray along with Nicholas Brown singing "Close to You." Refreshments were served in the church fellowship hall immediately following the ceremony.

Mt. Olive and Solid Rock's parishioners united in the fellowship hall for a prepared meal.

According to Gray, Mt. Olive plans to continue to reach out to the younger generation because he feels there is so much to take them away from the church. He said the church has to try and reach them on their level to bring them back in.



The Rev. Waymon Monroe delivers the sermon during Mt. Olive's 107th anniversary on Sunday, April, 3.

**Open**  
Mon-Fri  
11-3  
Sunday  
12-4

**Meta's Restaurant**  
102 West 3rd Street, Suite Lp5  
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**ACE AWARDS**

ATHLETIC CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

**Monday, April 25, 2016 ■ 6pm**

**K.R. Williams**

*Semi-formal/Formal attire*

**\$10.00 | WSSU Students with Valid Identification are FREE**

**UPCOMING GAMES**

**SOFTBALL**

4/12 VS. PFEIFFER 4/6PM  
TWIN CITY PARK, WINSTON-SALEM, NC

4/20 VS. BENEDICT 2/4PM  
TWIN CITY PARK, WINSTON-SALEM, NC

**TENNIS**

4/10 VS. SHAW 1PM  
WSSU TENNIS COURTS

4/19 VS. SALEM 3PM  
WSSU TENNIS COURTS

**BASEBALL**

5/12 VS. MT. OLIVE 6PM  
BB&T BALLPARK, WINSTON-SALEM, NC

**WSSU TEAM UP FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS**

**APRIL 29**

Come out and enjoy 18 holes of exciting golf on new diamond zoysia greens at Winston Lake Golf Course. A day of fun, fellowship and great prizes await all participants. All proceeds from the classic and silent auction will support the general scholarship fund at WSSU.

**So grab a friend or three – and join us Friday, April 29, 2016 for the Golf Tournament.**

Dual Shotgun starts at 7:30 am and 1:00 pm

4 Player Captain's Choice

Entry Fee: \$180 per person/\$630 per team  
Includes cart, green fees, souvenirs,  
lunch sponsored by **Bib's Downtown.**

**PRIZES ABOUND!**

Prizes for Guess the Longest Drive and Magic Ball contests. Win a new car for a hole-in-one, sponsored by **Flow BMW.**

Hole-in-one contest sponsored by **Windsor Jewelers.** Trophies will be awarded for winners in the Golf Tournament

**CHANCELLOR'S PUTTING BUDDIES**

Join us and cheer on our inaugural class of Chancellor's Putting Buddies announced during lunch. Selected individuals will compete in a short putting contest for a chance to win \$500 for the WSSU Foundation general scholarship fund sponsored by **Tournament Promotions.**

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

WSSU desires to provide financially for students through scholarship offerings. Opportunities such as the Golf Classic will allow access for more dedicated, talented and motivated students.