

I have never done that!

Scene: table with various people figures on it. Viewer perched above, looking down.

V: Oh, would you just look at what he's doing! He's popping one pill after another. That's not how that medication is meant to be used. There's no way I would ever do that.

V: Oooh, that's bad. That bloke, he's standing over his partner, yelling in her face. That's nasty. He's so much bigger than her. She looks very scared. That is so wrong. I would never do that.

V: Hang on, what's this woman doing? She's sitting in front of the TV. She's got a 2 litre tub of ice cream, and is just gorging herself. She's got no self control. I would never do that.

V: Now, what are those 2 ladies talking about? Let's see if I can listen (bends ear down). Aah, I thought so. They are having a good old gossip about someone else, and they're not saying nice things. I'm not someone to do that kind of thing. If you can't say anything nice about someone, then don't say anything at all. That's what my mum used to say.

V: Oh oh, am I seeing right? That person is fudging their tax return. They are falsely claiming expenses they never had. That is so dishonest. And he's someone who goes to church. I have never done anything like that.

V: Ok, who is that there? Hey, I reckon that's the lady from the Bible, that sinful woman. You know what I mean, don't you, when I say 'sinful woman'. She's done stuff I would never do in a million years! She's hurrying toward Jesus. How brazen is that! Has she no shame? Now she's standing behind Jesus as he's reclining at a meal with Simon the Pharisee. She's crying. Her tears are falling on Jesus' feet. She's wiping his feet with her hair. This is so embarrassing to see. Simon the Pharisee certainly looks embarrassed, and offended. What must Jesus be thinking! If I had lived the life she has, I would never come before Jesus like that. I would hide away.

V: Those tears she's crying – they're not wretched tears. Not at all. There's actually something really lovely about her tears. She's not crying like she's hopelessly lost in a dreadful mess. Yes, she is crying about her sin, but hers is a godly sorrow. This is an absolute outpouring of godly sorrow from her soul, but more than that. Her tears are also full of thankfulness, and gratefulness, and joy. Joy! These tears are an outpouring of godly repentance and joy. And her wiping of Jesus' feet with her hair is an outpouring of thankfulness and love.

V: I've never done that. At least, not to that level; not to that degree.

V: This is so humbling.

V: Lord Jesus, I want to be like this sinful woman. I feel the hardness that still sits in my heart. I look down on other people, just because they sin differently to me, as if I am not such a great sinner. Show me Lord the depth of my sin. Draw out of my heart a torrent of godly sorrow and repentance, and a flood of love and gratefulness and joy and worship to you Lord Jesus, who's mercy to sinners is so astounding. Yes Lord, make me like this sinful woman, that I might do what she did. Amen.