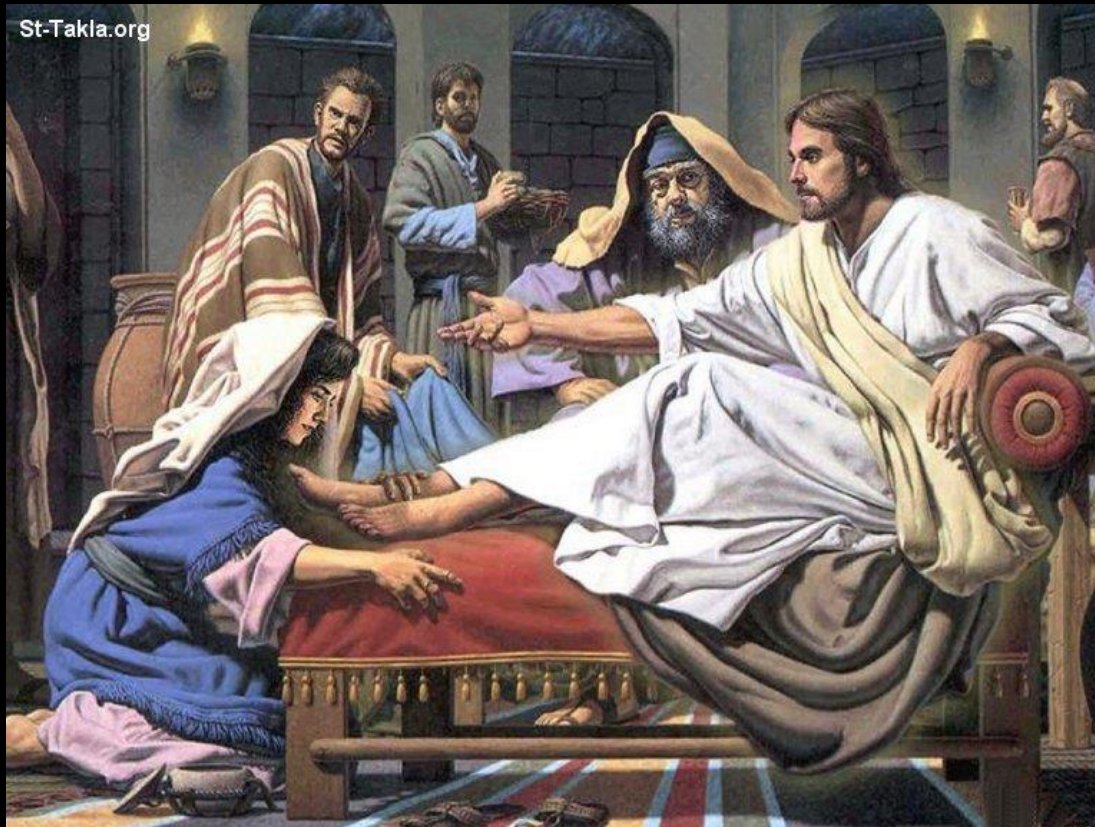




“This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.” (Lk.7:39)

The Sin of Self-Justification

Different Faces

- Decreases the importance and/or dangers of sin
 - Tries to convince you that sin is exaggerated
- Excuses
 - Seeks pity from others

Different Faces

- Shifting the blame to others
 - “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” (Gen. 3:12)
 - “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” (Gen. 3:13)
- Blaming God
 - “Would you condemn Me that you may be justified.” (Job 40:8)
 - “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’” (Matt. 25:24-25)

Dangers

- **Self-Justifying means you do not want to repent or change**
- **God refuses those who justify themselves**
 - “So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.” (Matt. 25:28)
- **Those who justify themselves fall into judgment**
- **Loss of people around you**

Remedy

- **Learn humility**

- “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.” (Lk. 15:18-19)
- “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.” (Lk 23:34)

- **Empathize**

- **Sincerely ask for forgiveness**

Summary

- Different faces
 - Decreases the importance and/or danger of sin
 - Excuses
 - Shifting blame to others
 - Blaming God
- Dangers
 - Self-Justifying means you do not want to repent or change
 - God refuses those who justify themselves
 - Those who justify themselves fall into judgment
 - Loss of people around you
- Remedy
 - Learn humility
 - Put yourself in their shoes and empathize (share in feelings of others)
 - Sincerely ask for forgiveness