

About Lorna Halili Parham

Lorna Parham is a passionate Bible teacher, writer, and mentor who has spent the last 30 plus years encouraging women to grow in faith and walk in purpose. Whether she's teaching in a group, writing a devotional, or sitting across from someone in crisis, Lorna brings compassion, clarity, and biblical wisdom. Her ministry focuses on young women, mothers, leaders, and women facing life's hardest seasons — offering not just words, but real support rooted in the truth of God's word.

Lorna is the founder and president of Oasis Ministries International, which she established in 2001—three years after overcoming a battle with physical illness.

She and her husband, Dennis, live in Dacula, Georgia, and serve the Lord both locally and abroad. They are blessed with four children: Elizabeth, Renee, Taylor, and John.

Her life echoes Acts 20:24: "...my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace."

Breaking the Alabaster

7-Day Devotional



Written by:
Lorna Halili Parham

Introduction

In the quiet corner of a home in Bethany, a woman once wept at the feet of Jesus. Her story, recorded in Luke 7:36–50, continues to echo through the centuries—a story of courage, repentance, and unrestrained love. She carried an alabaster jar, delicate and precious, filled with costly perfume. The alabastron was not easily opened; it had to be broken. Once the narrow neck was shattered, there was no turning back—the fragrance was released in a single, irreversible act.

Across the Gospels, we see women bringing alabaster jars to Jesus—each moment steeped in worship, sacrifice, and prophetic meaning. In Mark 14, Matthew 26, and John 12, the act points to His coming death and burial. But in Luke 7, it reveals His power to forgive and restore. In each scene, the fragrance fills the room and the moment lingers long after, declaring this truth: what is broken for Jesus is never wasted.

This 7-day devotional, *Breaking the Alabaster*, invites you to step into that sacred space—to kneel beside the woman at Jesus' feet, to let your own tears fall, and to pour out whatever precious thing you've been holding back. Each day will guide you to uncover the layers of worship, repentance, and surrender reflected in her act. Break the alabaster in His honor.

-Lorna Halili Parham

Ignore the scoffers, their clamor fades,
I press to His presence, where wisdom is made.
Seized by His Spirit, my lips proclaim
The honor and glory due His name.

No more hiding in a safety net,
No more holding what I'll regret.
For silence traded for holy zeal
Becomes a voice that wounds can heal.

O dry bones, awaken, hear the sound,
The wilderness voice shakes holy ground.
I have something to say—I will not withhold,
The story of Jesus, forever retold.

I will break the silence, lift up my choice,
Be God's mouthpiece, His wilderness voice.



*"And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume."
(John 12:3)*

Break the Silence

by Lorna Halili Parham

I have lingered long in hidden places,
Forging intimacy in quiet spaces.
A wilderness voice was formed unseen,
Now the Spirit stirs where I have been.

I bring my alabaster, fragile, true—
Comfort, convenience, reputation too.
I break it open, let fragrance rise,
An offering poured, a costly prize.

No longer bound by fear's restraint,
No longer hushed by the critic's complaint.
I break the silence, my voice will speak,
Proclaiming the Savior the world must seek.

With tears of gratitude, I wash His feet,
In my living room, my Lord I greet.
I open my heart, my mouth, my home,
Give Jesus a dwelling, make Him known.

Day 1 – A Vessel of Worship

Focus:

The alabastron was made to carry something precious.

Scripture:

Mark 14:3; Luke 7:36–37

“Then one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him... a woman... brought an alabaster jar of perfume.”

Reflection:

The alabastron was a vessel carved to hold something precious. In both Mark and Luke, a woman brings her alabaster jar before Jesus. For one, it was an act of prophetic worship before His death. For the other, it was the only way she knew to express repentance, gratitude, and love. Both poured out what was costly—because Jesus Himself was worthy.

Prayer:

Lord, I offer myself as Your vessel. May my life release the fragrance of worship to You.

Journaling Prompt:

What is symbolic of “precious vessel” in your life that the Holy Spirit of God prompting you to bring to Jesus’ feet?

Day 2-The Cost of Devotion

Focus:

The perfume was costly, symbolizing sacrifice.

Scripture:

Matthew 26:7; Luke 7:37-38

"She stood behind Him at His feet weeping... she kissed His feet and anointed them with the perfume."

Reflection:

Her alabaster offering cost more than money. It cost her reputation. Entering a Pharisee's house as a known sinner was risky, but love drove her past shame. Devotion to Jesus will often cost us pride, comfort, and approval. She was willing to cross boundaries of pride or fear to honor Jesus?

Prayer:

Jesus, teach me to give You not just convenience but costly devotion. You are worth it all.

Journaling Prompt:

What "cost" in following Jesus feels most challenging to you right now? Are you willing to step into an uncomfortable place to show Christ's worth—whether in prayer, service, or bold witness?

Day 7- A Legacy of Fragrance

Focus:

Her act is remembered wherever the gospel is preached.

Scripture:

"Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached... what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." (Mark 14:9)

Reflection:

One act of wholehearted devotion became her legacy. Two thousand years later, her devotion still speaks. When you pour yourself out for Jesus, it leaves a fragrance that outlives you. When you share the treasures within you, you honor Him. As you testify of His goodness, others will encounter His love through you. Your surrender becomes a testimony that continues to speak long after you're gone.

Prayer:

Lord, let my life leave behind the fragrance of devotion to You.

Journaling Prompt:

What kind of spiritual legacy do you want to leave for those who come after you?

Day 6- A Prophetic Offering

Focus:

Her act foreshadowed Jesus' burial.

Scripture:

"She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial." (Mark 14:8)

"Jesus said, 'Your sins are forgiven.'" (Luke 7:48)

Reflection:

In Mark, the woman's act pointed forward to Jesus' burial. In Luke, her act pointed to His authority to forgive sins. Both offerings were prophetic, proclaiming who Jesus truly was—Messiah, Savior, Redeemer. When you surrender fully to Jesus, your life speaks prophetically too. Your devotion tells the world that Jesus is worth dying for, living for, and giving all for. Your testimony is a prophetic witness of who Jesus is.

Prayer:

Holy Spirit, may my worship declare the reality of Jesus' death and resurrection to the world.

Journaling Prompt:

In what ways can your life today point others to the cross and resurrection?

Day 3- Wholehearted Commitment

Focus:

Breaking the alabastron was an irrevocable act.

Scripture:

"She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head." (Mark 14:3)

"She began to wet His feet with her tears and wipe them with her hair." Luke 7:38

Reflection:

Once broken, the alabaster jar could not be resealed. This was a wholehearted, no-turning-back declaration of love. What was once preserved as precious became powerful when it was poured out at His feet. Following Jesus calls for that kind of commitment—where nothing is withheld and nothing is saved for "later."

Prayer:

Lord, help me to live broken open before You, holding nothing back.

Journaling Prompt:

In what areas of your life are you tempted to "save" something for yourself instead of giving it fully to God?

Day 4- The Fragrance of Repentance

Focus:

The fragrance filled the room, just as repentance refreshes hearts.

Scripture:

“And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume... The Pharisee said, ‘If this man were a prophet, He would know... she is a sinner.’” Luke 7:38-39; John 12:3

Reflection:

The aroma of devotion could not be hidden—it touched everyone present. Genuine repentance and surrender before Jesus releases a fragrance that lingers, changing the atmosphere around you. When you repent, others see Jesus in you more clearly. Her story reminds us that the oil of anointing flows only when something is pressed, crushed or broken. The alabaster jar had to be shattered for its fragrance to fill the room.

Prayer:

Jesus, let the fragrance of my life be one of humility and repentance before You. Let the fragrance of my devotion to You fill every space I enter.

Journaling Prompt:

When has your obedience or repentance impacted someone else?

Day 5- Worship Amid Criticism

Focus:

The woman faced scorn for her extravagant act.

Scripture:

“Why this waste?” they asked. (Matthew 26:8)
“When the Pharisee saw this, he said... ‘She is a sinner.’” Luke 7:39

Reflection:

The voices of critics always rise when devotion is displayed. The disciples called it waste. The Pharisee called her unworthy. Her act was not about being noticed, welcomed or approved by others, yet Jesus calls it “beautiful.” When you worship and obey Him fully, prepare for misunderstanding. Like the woman, you may be misunderstood or even criticized but Jesus will defend your worship.

Prayer:

Lord, give me courage to worship You boldly, even when others don't understand. Help me not to be swayed by critics who say, “Why this waste?”

Journaling Prompt:

When you face criticism for your devotion, whose opinion carries more weight in your heart—the critic's or Christ's?