

Luke 7 Sermon Questions

Gathering

1. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt totally out of place because of your class, race, lack of talent or lack of wealth?
2. Have you ever been part of a group when someone who did not belong showed up? How awkward was it and how did you feel?

Looking at the Text

In this series we are looking at Jesus' interactions during meals. Meals were very important in Jesus' day. They were not only central gathering times they were societal markers. You ate with people who were like you whether you were Jew or Gentile, rich or poor. In particular if you were a religious Jew you did not eat with "sinners." That would be contamination and might be seen as condoning their sin. We see in this passage from Luke that Jesus did not follow these societal conventions.

Read Luke 7:36-39

1. A Pharisee was a respected member of the religious community and very conscious of religious norms. He probably invited Jesus to a meal after Sabbath services. It says they reclined at the table which means they were laying on their left elbows with their legs away from the table. It signaled that this was a formal meal; it was like setting the table with the good dishes and special table cloth. Why do you think this man invited Jesus to eat?
2. How do you think the Pharisee felt when the "sinful woman" walked in?
3. How hard do you think she was crying for her tears to make Jesus' feet wet?
4. Women generally did not let their hair down in public. How come this woman did, why wasn't she concerned with the other people at the table?
5. What was the Pharisee thinking?

Read Luke 7:40-50

1. Why does Jesus tell this parable to Simon the Pharisee? How does the parable relate to this situation?
2. How does Jesus compare the woman's actions to Simon's hospitality?
3. What was this woman's motivation for all she did?
4. Notice that Jesus is not saying that this woman is forgiven because she has shown love. He is saying that she shows love for Jesus because she is forgiven. What's the difference?
5. How do you think Simon the Pharisee felt about his own actions after Jesus' explanation?
6. Why do you think Jesus speaks to the woman in vs 48 and 50? What does he want her to know?

Application

There is a message wrapped in each major character in this narrative.

1. From the woman we learn that when we understand the depth of Jesus' forgiveness and love for us, we respond with gratitude and worship. What is the temperature of your worship and prayer? How much do you reflect on your salvation?
2. From Simon the Pharisee we see that being religious and respected is not the same as loving Jesus. If we love Jesus we will accept people the way he did. Why is that so hard for us?

From Jesus we learn that, unlike some people both religious and secular, he welcomes the sinner to the table. Jesus is worthy of all the love, worship and obedience we can give because he has come to forgive and transform us. When we fail to obey or worship it is because we have forgotten what he has done. Has this ever happened to you?