



JESUS STORIES

August 4, 2024 Sermon Study Guide Jon Ackerman, Director of Spiritual Development Jesus Stories: *Forgiveness & Acceptance*- Luke 7: 36-50

Jesus Anointed by a Sinful Woman

³⁶ When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷ A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. ³⁸ As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. ³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. ⁴¹ "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii,^[c] and the other fifty. ⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. ⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

A Life Application Study Guide

James 1:22-25 tells us to put into practice what we are discovering in God's word.

1. If you recall, the word *parable* in Greek: *parabolē* is a side by side structured illustration, used to capture the attention of the listener/learner and intended to teach a deeper spiritual truth. In week one we discovered that not everyone listening to a parable will understand the truth that Jesus is speaking about. So, we must listen with ears to hear, observe with eyes to see and hearts to comprehend the message in the parables that Jesus told.
 - What first comes to mind when you hear the word forgiveness or when you consider what it means to *forgive or to be forgiven*?

- As you have worked through the process of forgiving in your own life, what did you discover about forgiveness that you had previously misunderstood? How did this shift your perspective in a helpful way?

2. In the passage in Luke 7, we see Jesus at the home of a Pharisee where He had been invited for dinner. At the beginning of the evening the Pharisee was likely seeking to gain a better understanding of who Jesus was. By the end of the evening, He had been offered an up close and personal view of God in the flesh, discovering that *His ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts*.

- We see what may seem odd to us as the scene unfolds, a local woman shows up at Simon the Pharisee's home looking for Jesus. Why do you think she sought out Jesus on that particular evening? What was she hoping for and what did she leave with?

- Think of a time when you were so desperate for something that you were willing to risk embarrassment or even humiliation.

- When have you messed up and needed someone's compassion and forgiveness? Share what that involved both on your part and others.

- The woman arrives with an alabaster jar of fragrant oil. Using your imagination what might she have been thinking as she prepared to join a dinner party that she had not been invited to and why bring the fragrant oil with her?

3. As you read back through the passage in Luke 7 what do you believe God values most.

- What's on your list and how did you arrive at your answers?

- Is your heart on the list of the things that God values most and how about repentance? How are the two connected in this story?

4. On your list of what God values most, where are the people that He has placed in your life? Even the people who have hurt you.

- Who has God called you to forgive even if they are no longer here on earth? How are you navigating that process and including God in your story as you give Him ownership in that relationship and the events?

- Why are boundaries important as you forgive someone who has harmed you or taken advantage of you?

5. On some days we likely see others in the way that Simon the Pharisee did, and on other days we may see ourselves as the women who crashed his dinner party saw herself. But we are asked to look even deeper and consider how Jesus thought of both and how He responded to both. And this is where He teaches through the parable in Luke 7.

- Reflect back on the most significant debt you've incurred. Perhaps you are still paying off that debt like a mortgage loan, a student loan, or a car loan. Perhaps you know someone who is currently incarcerated and not living in physical freedom. Jesus is asking us to consider our response to being freed of the burden of a debt and why we must live not only as freed people but people who offer freedom. How might you offer freedom to someone in your life today?

- In the OT book of Leviticus, the *Year of Jubilee* loosely translated was a freeing of slaves and a canceling of debt every 50 years. What would your life look like if a sizable debt was forgiven? How would you respond?

MAKING IT REAL

1. The Holy Spirit can help you think and see differently if you allow Him to. Look back at question 3 and consider your value and worth in God's kingdom. How will this offer you a new perspective as you navigate forgiving yourself and others?