

Luke 7:36-50



A meal to remember

The text – Luke 7: 36-50

1. Read Luke 7:36-50. In this passage, we have an account of one of the important meal events in Luke, with three central characters – Jesus, the Pharisee, and the woman. After reading through the text, discuss what you learn about the Pharisee. Then discuss what you learn about the woman. What are some important contrasts between them?
2. In Luke 7:37 the woman enters the room with an alabaster jar of perfume. Why is this jar of perfume highlighted? What does it represent?
3. Why is the Pharisee's judgement of the woman, as stated in 7:39, so mistaken?
4. Jesus knows what Simon the Pharisee is saying to himself in 7:39. Explain Jesus' parable about debts being forgiven.
5. Compare the "you did not" statements about Simon with the "she did" statements about the woman in 7:44-47. What is the main point Jesus is making?
6. Jesus says two things to the woman: "Your sins are forgiven" and "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace." Discuss the relationship between these sayings. How are they different to each other?

The Scriptures – Luke 7: 36-50 as a portion of the Scriptures

7. The psalmists often prayed that God would forgive their sins. Read Psalm 51:1-12 as one example. Why does God forgive sins? What does it mean to be forgiven?
8. Being forgiven by God and forgiving one another are closely related. Read for example, Ephesians 4:32-5:2. How does forgiveness shape the way we are to live as God's people?
9. The most common NT word for "peace" is related to the OT word "shalom" which means a lot more than inner peace or freedom from anxiety. It is about justice and flourishing life in a world that is reconciled to God. Read for example, Isaiah 32:16-20. In light of this rich OT background, what does Jesus mean when he says to the woman, "Go in peace"?

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Luke 7: 36-50 as a portion of the Scriptures

10. What are some areas in your life in which God's forgiveness has been liberating? Spend some time sharing about your love and gratitude in response to God's forgiveness.
11. Are there areas in your life in which you are not yet at peace, in the sense that you still need to deal with actions and thoughts that are disobedient to God or hurtful to others? How can we help you in these areas?
12. How has this passage from the Scriptures impacted your life? How will you respond to what God has been saying to you? What do you need to do?