

**Sunday Bible Study Lesson: August 2, 2020**  
**“Dinner at Simon’s House”**  
**Luke 7:36-50**

When we celebrate most of the major events of our lives, we celebrate with food. Sometimes we have a cook-out, sometimes a dinner. Other times, we have heavy hors d'oeuvres or cake and ice cream. When we gather to break bread, it is an experience of sharing companionship. In this passage, we meet Simon who is a Pharisee-- which means “one who is set apart from sin and from sinners.” Pharisees were experts in the law. They were highly respected teachers of the law who so badly wanted to keep the law of God that they kept adding more and more rules to the 10 commandments. So here’s Simon, and he’s constantly asking, “How can I be sure not to violate the laws of God?”

Why do you think he invited Jesus to dinner?

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**Read Luke 7:36-37.** Initially, what do we know about the woman who entered the house uninvited?

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What did she bring with her? \_\_\_\_\_

She was known as a bad woman--a public and notorious sinner. We do not know what her sin was, but everyone at the dinner knew. Simon would never have invited her to his house. In fact, women were not welcome at the dinner. Simon’s wife and other women who prepared and served the meal had disappeared into the kitchen or the courtyard of the house.

Jesus was reclining at his meal; and his feet, which were on the couch, were turned toward the door. The woman had not come far into the house before she reached Jesus' feet. Describe the woman’s actions in **verse 38**:

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By entering Simon’s house, she was taking a huge risk of being rejected or humiliated. What do you think motivated the woman to take such action?

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Something had happened before the woman came into Simon's house. Something had brought a great change in her. She must have had an encounter with Jesus before this day. Perhaps she heard Jesus teaching about love and forgiveness. Something Jesus said or did pierced her soul. Some of the gracious words of Jesus had fallen into her heart—and had sparked within her the vision and hope of a better life.

What did Simon say to himself in **verse 39**?

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What do His thoughts reveal about Him?

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Read Jesus' response to Simon's thoughts in **verses 40-43**. In a beautiful parable, Jesus explains the secret of the woman's love and her act of devotion. After the parable, what is Jesus' question to Simon? \_\_\_\_\_

In the parable, what is the significance of neither debtor being able to pay what he owed?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is the significance of both debtors being forgiven?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Although Simon was able to answer the question correctly, do you think he fully understood the application of the parable to his life? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain:  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is the question Jesus asked Simon in **verse 44**?  
\_\_\_\_\_?

When Jesus asked this question, He was asking, "Do you really **see** her?" "Do you only see what she has done, **or** do you see her as a person?"

At this point, Jesus showed Simon that this woman loved more than Simon did by comparing her treatment of Jesus with Simon's treatment of him when Jesus entered Simon's house. (Note that Jesus did not bring up the fact that Simon had snubbed him until Simon criticized the woman.)

**Read verses 44-46** and list what Simon failed to do \_\_\_\_\_  
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During this time, good manners were always extended when a guest entered a house. The host placed his hand on the guest's shoulder and gave him the kiss of peace. That was a mark of respect which was never omitted in the case of a distinguished Rabbi. The roads of these times were only dust tracks, and the guest removed his sandals at the door. Cool water was poured over the guest's feet to cleanse and comfort them. A drop of sweet-smelling oil was placed on the guest's head. Because Simon felt superior to Jesus, he did not feel that Jesus deserved these common courtesies.

Now list the actions of the woman in **verses 44-46**.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The woman proved her reverence and respect for Jesus. To express her deep love and gratitude, she thought nothing was too costly to bestow on Him.

What does Jesus say to Simon about the woman in **verse 47**?  
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Why did Jesus add, "...but he who has forgiven little loves little?"  
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What did Jesus say to the woman in **verses 48 and 50**?

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What would those words mean to the woman?

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Jesus' words to the woman indicate that she was transformed because of her faith.

It is clear that the woman had a deeper sense of her sin than Simon had of his-- and, consequently, a deeper sense of the mercy she received.

### Application

What if **I** had been at the dinner? Which person would **I** be more like--  
Simon, the proud-hearted Pharisee?  
The woman, the broken-hearted sinner?  
Jesus, the loving-hearted Savior?

Where do **I** see myself in this Biblical account? Are there times when **I** am **Simon, the proud-hearted Pharisee**?

Simon saw a sinner and was repulsed by her presence. Have **I** ever judged someone else? For Jesus, people came before rules. **For Simon, rules came before people.** At times, am **I** prone to put rules before people?

Are there times when **I** am the **broken-hearted sinner**? Can **I** identify with the woman in this account? Do **I** recognize how great my debt is? Am **I** as desperate as she was to pour out my praise and express my deep love and gratitude to Jesus? (The more we realize our sinfulness, the greater our love for Christ when we are forgiven.)

Am **I** living out the example of **Jesus, the loving-hearted Savior**? Jesus, who saw a sinner who was eager for salvation, loved her and forgave her. Jesus recognized that **what she had done** was not **who she was.** (**Seeing people through Jesus' eyes can make all the difference.**)

Lisa DePalma, ministers to prostitutes on Chicago's West and North Sides. Always used and never loved, they hear from Lisa—some of them for the first time—that God has wonderfully loved them in Jesus Christ. Lisa wrote these pleading lines. Imagine her whispering these words to Simon as he watched the woman pour out her love at Jesus' feet.

Can you see her? Will you let God show you?  
Her face instead of her clothes? Her eyes instead of her body?  
Can you see her? Will you let God show you?  
She has a name instead of a label, A broken heart instead of a hard one  
Can you see her? Will you let God show you?  
The image of God instead of an object of scorn  
Her worth to the Savior instead of her worthlessness to the world  
Can you see her? Will you let God show you?  
His heart of forgiveness instead of your heart that judges  
His blood that covers instead of your rules that condemn  
Can you see her? Will you let God show you?  
And when you do see, what then?

### **Prayer:**

Merciful Father, I confess that, like Simon, I have judged others. Forgive me, and give me a heart that seeks to love as You loved. I confess that I have not loved You with my whole heart. I commit myself anew to follow You as my Lord and to love with Your love. Thank You for Your fierce, relentless love. In Jesus' Name, and in the power of the Holy Spirit I pray, Amen.