



Study #5 for week of February 6, 2012

Jesus, Loved By Sinners

Luke 7:36-50

Introduction

In Luke 7 we find Jesus travelling around the country and doing many miracles. The people are enthralled but the religious leaders are angry and critical. As conflicting reports about Jesus' ministry come to John the Baptist, even John himself has to ask whether or not Jesus is the expected Messiah. After Jesus sends a return message to John affirming that he is indeed Messiah, he also affirms John and his ministry. In our present passage we see an example of Jesus putting into practice his response to John, providing an open door for sinners to respond in love to him.

⇒ **The aim of this study is to show how our response to people who have not yet come to faith can be a crucial part of their journey and our ministry**

Group Study

Community Building

- (1) Share a time when someone showed you grace or undeserved forgiveness and how that affected your attitude towards that person.

Read Luke 7:36-50

- (2) Why do you think Simon the Pharisee invited Jesus to dinner? What did he hope to get out of it?

Why did Jesus go?

- (3) **Verses 37-38.** Imagine yourself as this woman. What would you hope to gain by such an act?

- (4) What does Simons' internal response show us about his view of people?

How easily do you respond in similar ways?

- (5) Jesus engages Simon in Q&A dialogue. Why do you think he handled the situation this way? What does it teach us about handling judgmental attitudes?

- (6) In **verses 44-47** Jesus contrasts the behavior of Simon and the woman. What is the bigger truth we learn from this?
- (7) Why were people so surprised by Jesus statement in **verse 48**? What does this tell us about Jesus' view of himself?
- (8) What do Jesus' final words to the woman reveal about his attitude towards her? How can they help shape the way we view the people we come in contact with?
- (9) Consider the two stories in this passage – that of Simon and the woman and that of the 2 debtors. Place yourself in each. What position do you find yourself in? What do you learn?

Prayer

Prayer is not monologue, but dialogue. God's voice in response to mine is its most essential part. ~ Andrew Murray

Pray for each other that God would give you a heart with greater compassion for those you meet. **WARNING:** If you do, be ready for him to lay specific people on your heart, giving guidance as to how you can touch them. In God's view, an attitude change also brings about change of action – if not, nothing has really changed after all.

Pray also for the shifts in understanding and action that our whole Body will have to go through in order to fulfill God's call to reach our neighbours.