

Community Group Study Guide
For the Week of August 27th – September 2nd

Please read Luke 7:36-50.

1. In this reading, a woman known to be a sinner anoints Jesus' feet as he is reclining as a dinner guest of Simon the Pharisee.

- a. When she wets his feet with her tears, do you think this was part of her initial plan? Please explain.
- b. Why do you think she was crying? Do you think this is an expression of remorse or joy? Please explain.
- c. Why does she use her hair to wipe his feet?
- d. Usually ointment was used to anoint the head, not the feet. Why does she anoint Jesus' feet instead of his head?

2. When the Pharisee says to himself in verse 39, "If this man were a prophet . . ." do you think he believes Jesus to be a prophet or not?

- a. Did the Pharisee think that Jesus knew the woman to be a sinner? Please explain.
- b. Do you think that the Pharisee believed that Jesus would act the way he did in the presence of a known sinner? Please explain.
- c. How do you think the Pharisee would have reacted if the woman acted this way toward himself?
- d. Did Jesus know that the woman was a sinner? Please explain.
- e. How does his reaction compare with the reaction of the Pharisee?

3. After the parable of the two debtors, Jesus asks Simon the Pharisee which of the two debtors will love the moneylender more.

- a. Did Jesus know what Simon had been thinking?
- b. Simon qualifies his answer, saying "I suppose." Do you think that he is uncertain of the answer, or the point Jesus is making? Please explain.

c. Do you think that Simon's failure to provide water for Jesus to wash his feet was a deliberate snub? Why or why not?

d. Do you think that Simon's failure to give Jesus a welcoming kiss was a deliberate snub? Why or why not?

e. Do you think that Simon's failure to anoint Jesus' head with oil was a deliberate snub? Why or why not?

4. In verse 47, Jesus corrects Simon's presupposition regarding his knowledge of the woman's character.

a. Repeatedly after the parable, Jesus compares Simon's behavior with that of the woman. How does this correct his presupposition about how Jesus would react to a known sinner?

b. Verse 47 states that the woman's sins have been forgiven "because she loved greatly." Was the woman's love the basis for, or the result of her forgiveness? Please explain.

c. Does the phrase "to whom little is forgiven" imply that Simon's sins were few? Does it imply that he was forgiven? Please explain.

5. In verse 48, Jesus tells the woman that her sins have been forgiven?

a. Is he forgiving her at that moment? Please explain.

b. Do you think that the woman had previously been forgiven? Please explain. Again, why was she crying earlier, out of remorse or joy?

c. Who now knows that the woman has been forgiven? Please explain.

d. When the other guests murmur in verse 49, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" do they know that the woman has been forgiven? Or do they doubt Jesus' authority to determine this? Please explain.

e. What does the response of the other guests say about their faith in Jesus?

6. In verse 50, Jesus tells the woman that her faith has saved her.

a. What was the object of the woman's faith?

b. Does this imply anything about the salvation of the other guests? Please explain.

c. Do you think Simon the Pharisee is included with those who were at the table who doubted Jesus' authority to forgive sins? Please explain.