



Questions

1. Review Luke 7:1-35. What miracles did Jesus perform and how was He seen by many Jews (7:16)? But how did the Jewish Pharisees view Jesus (7:30-35)?
2. How does Luke 7:47 unlock the meaning of the parable Jesus told in Luke 7:41-43? What does the parable reveal about your sin?
3. What indicates that Simon the Pharisee's agenda was not to treat Jesus as a great prophet?
4. One scholar concludes that "unbound hair on a weeping woman (in ancient Mediterranean culture) is naturally associated with grief, supplication, and gratitude." How does this help your understanding of what is happening in Luke 7:37-38?
5. Why did Simon reject Jesus? How does it demonstrate the friendship of Jesus that He exposed Simon's heart?
6. How does Luke 7:47 answer the question of whether the woman was forgiven before or after she came and washed Jesus' feet? Why does that question matter? (Hint: works or grace?)
7. How has this story fueled your worship of Jesus? How will you be proactive this week to remember His words: "Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."? How can those truths help you this week?

Need prayer? Someone will be up front by the piano to pray with you after the 1st & 2nd services.

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JESUS, FRIEND OF SINNERS

Encounters with Jesus in the Gospels

Jesus, The Friend Who Forgives

Luke 7:36-50

Doug Sachtleben, Lead Pastor
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In Luke 7 Jesus responds to a prideful Pharisee and a repentant woman, showing the love of a friend who confronts with truth and who forgives more generously than we might imagine.

Background: In Luke 7 Jesus showed miraculous grace to a Gentile military commander and to a woman who lost her only son, leading many to call Him a great prophet (7:16). But the Pharisees – Jewish religious leaders – rejected Jesus because they refused to see themselves as sinners in need of salvation.

Two Reputations

Simon the Pharisee (7:36) – Scrupulous in an outward observance of God's Law.

A woman in the town who was a sinner (7:37) – Her specific sin is unknown, but she is recognized by it in the town where she lives.



One Inescapable Reality (7:42, cf. 7:47)

There was not one great sinner and one little sinner. Both the woman and the Pharisee were bankrupt sinners who owed an unpayable debt to God for their sin.

Two Agendas

Simon the Pharisee was looking for a way to prove that Jesus was not the great prophet that some people said He was. Pharisees, like Simon, had already rejected Jesus (7:34).

The woman came to Jesus, weeping in humble recognition of her sin, and with an overwhelming gratitude for the forgiveness she received through Jesus.

Two Applications

A dreadful warning for those – like Simon – who think they do not need Jesus.

The greatest news ever for those – like the woman – who see their sin and recognize their need for a Savior.

“Her many sins have been forgiven. That’s why she loved much.”