

sin?" It was not the first time Jesus had forgiven sins.

Matthew 9:2-3 NLT - 2 Some people brought to him a paralyzed man on a mat. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Be encouraged, my child! Your sins are forgiven." 3 But some of the teachers of religious law said to themselves, "That's blasphemy! Does he think he's God?"

What question did the Pharisees ask in Matthew 9:3? What do you think the answer is?

John 1:11-13 NLT - 11 He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. 12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. 13 They are reborn--not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

Jesus offers reconciliation to all, even the Pharisees, but there is a condition they failed to meet (John 1:12), without which they are not God's children. Each of us must answer that question asked by Simon's dinner guests; Who is this man who forgives sin? Only when we believe and accept Jesus as our Lord and savior can we be reconciled to God as his children.

WRAP-UP

The sinful woman recognized Jesus was her savior and received forgiveness and the peace that comes with it. But, based on how Jesus was treated, Simon failed to believe that Jesus is God. Unless we recognize that and accept him as our Lord and as the sacrifice for our sins, we will remain separated from God, whether our sins are great or few.

Memory Verse

But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12 NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members' needs: (see back for more space)

Challenge- Take a personal inventory of how you treat Jesus. Do you show Him the love and respect your God deserves, or do you fail to recognize him for who He really is?

"Dinner at Simon the Pharisee's House"

Farm to Table #2

INTRODUCTION

You never knew what to expect when Jesus came to dinner. At the end of chapter 7 of his gospel, Luke tell us Jesus accepted the invitation of a Pharisee. But nobody was expecting an uninvited guest to show up as well. While they were dining, the woman with a reputation as a sinner approached Jesus, weeping and applying perfume to his feet. What happened next is a demonstration of how Jesus makes reconciliation available to all of us, no matter how great or small our sins.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

When was the last time someone showed up who was totally unexpected at your house?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

1. The Pharisee

Before we get to Jesus' dinner invitation, we should look at what was happening leading up to that time.

What miracles were reference earlier in this chapter (Luke 9-22). How did this affect the crowd's view of Jesus? (Lk 7:16)

Luke 7:16 NLT - 16 Great fear swept the crowd, and they praised God, saying, "A mighty prophet has risen among us," and "God has visited his people today."

Jesus probably got many dinner invitations after performing such great miracles. One of them came from Simon the Pharisee.

Why do you think Simon might have invited Jesus to dinner?

Simon's motive for his invitation can be determined by paying attention to the details of the evening. Our first hint of his motive comes when a sinful woman comes in and begins to minister to Jesus by weeping and anointing him with perfume.

Luke 7:39 NLT - 39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!"

Simon seems to have concluded that Jesus was not a prophet based on his reaction to the sinful woman. So, he probably was skeptical of Jesus at best. He might even have been looking for a way to discredit Jesus. In response to what Simon was thinking, Jesus told a parable of two debtors (Luke 7:41-43), both forgiven by the same man.

Luke 7:41-43, 47 NLT - 41 Then Jesus told him this story: "A man loaned money to two people--500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. 42 But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?" 43 Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt." "That's right," Jesus said. ... 47 "I tell you, her sins--and they are many--have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love."

What was the point of Jesus' parable? What did Jesus reveal about Simon by contrasting how he was treated by Simon and how he was treated by the woman in verses 44 - 46?

Luke 7:44-46 NLT - 44 Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn't offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume."

What did Simon's failure to offer even common courtesies to Jesus reveal?

Why might we think Simon has the same attitude displayed by the unnamed Pharisee in Luke 18:11? What reaction would you expect from someone who considered himself a forgiven sinner rather than a righteous man?

Luke 18:11 NLT - 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: 'I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else. For I don't cheat, I don't sin, and I don't commit adultery. I'm certainly not like that tax collector!'

2. The Woman

In contrast to Simon was the woman known to be a sinner. Read how she is described in verses 37 and 38.

Luke 7:37-38 NLT - 37 When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. 38 Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them.

What would you say her actions revealed about her attitude?

Did you envision her weeping quietly? That's not what the word here tells us. It says she *klaio*, which means lamented loudly like one who mourns.

Why do you think she was weeping?

In verses 44 - 46 Jesus detailed her actions towards him. She washed his feet with tears and dried them with her hair. She kissed his feet and anointed them with costly perfume.

How would you expect such a woman to act in the presence of a prophet? What did her response to Jesus reveal about how she viewed him?

It is important to recognize which came first- the expression of love and worship or the forgiveness of her sins. Jesus told Simon that she had been forgiven of many sins and so she showed much love.

Why do we tend to get that concept reversed and expect to earn forgiveness by our own actions? What reinforces that idea of earned forgiveness in our lives?

3. Sins Forgiven

Luke 7:48-50 NLT - 48 Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven." 49 The men at the table said among themselves, "Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?" 50 And Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Jesus was the only one who could offer this woman what she really needed, a way to be reconciled to God. What does it mean to be reconciled to God? We have no way to pay the price for our own sin. Because of it we are separated from God. But Jesus' death and resurrection demonstrates that the price for sin was paid and the power of death was broken. We now have a relationship with God.

It was not the woman's weeping, or her offering of perfume that saved her. What did Jesus say had saved her? What do we need to believe to have a "saving faith"?

The men at the table asked a critical question; "Who is this man who forgives