

Read Luke 7 36-50

1. Compare the two Characters in the story.
 - Which one is more successful?
 - Which one appears more Godly?
 - Which one is more sinful?
 - Which one is more acceptable?
 - If you were to meet both, which would you invite for a coffee?
2. From verses 44-46 we can see that Simon's welcome for Jesus wasn't particularly warm. What do you think this shows us about Simon's attitude towards Jesus?
3. Verse 37 tells us that the woman came prepared with a jar of oil to honour Jesus. What she did next was pretty strange! She was desperate to express her love for Jesus.
 - Why?
 - Was what she did appropriate?
 - We are caught up on all sorts of behaviour patterns and social norms. Do you think these sometimes get in the way of expressing our love for Jesus?
4. Verse 39 shows us that Simon was pretty shocked and didn't approve of either the woman or Jesus.
 - Considering all the facts, especially the woman's background, was his reaction understandable or reasonable?
 - Have you ever judged or looked down on someone with a dubious background?
 - Have you ever reacted negatively or judged someone when they have done something that you consider strange or awkward during worship?

Read Luke 6 37-42. Read Luke 7 41-43.

In his parable, Jesus does a couple of things. He acknowledges that the woman's sin (debt) is great and because of that, Jesus is able to do more in her life. As a result her love for Jesus is greater. The passage from Luke 6 cautions us against judging others.

5. Considering the above, what sort of attitudes should we have to those who are sinful, of dubious character or just make us uncomfortable?

Pray that God will help you to become more like Jesus when we meet people who are hurting, need forgiveness, and setting free by the love of God.

Verse 50 is really important. It shows us that the woman was saved by her faith in Jesus. Love flows from faith.

Pray that your faith will grow and overflow into love that will change the lives of those around you.