

Small Groups Study Guide

Luke 7:36-50

October 29, 2023

1. Spend time discussing how everyone is doing.
2. Open up with a short prayer or popcorn style (where everyone can pray a little bit)
3. Lesson

- a. Scripture

Luke 7:36-50 (MSG)

36-39 One of the Pharisees asked him (Jesus) over for a meal. He went to the Pharisee's house and sat down at the dinner table. Just then a woman of the village, the town harlot, having learned that Jesus was a guest in the home of the Pharisee, came with a bottle of very expensive perfume and stood at his feet, weeping, raining tears on his feet. Letting down her hair, she dried his feet, kissed them, and anointed them with the perfume. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man was the prophet I thought he was, he would have known what kind of woman this is who is falling all over him."

40 Jesus said to him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Oh? Tell me."

41-42 "Two men were in debt to a banker. One owed five hundred silver pieces, the other fifty. Neither of them could pay up, and so the banker canceled both debts. Which of the two would be more grateful?"

43-47 Simon answered, "I suppose the one who was forgiven the most."

"That's right," said Jesus. Then turning to the woman, but speaking to Simon, he said, "Do you see this woman? I came to your home; you provided no water for my feet, but she rained tears on my feet and dried them with her hair. You gave me no greeting, but from the time I arrived she hasn't quit kissing my feet. You provided nothing for freshening up, but she has soothed my feet with perfume. Impressive, isn't it? She was forgiven many, many sins, and so she is very, very grateful. If the forgiveness is minimal, the gratitude is minimal."

48 Then he spoke to her: "I forgive your sins."

49 That set the dinner guests talking behind his back: "Who does he think he is, forgiving sins!"

50 He ignored them and said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

- b. Notes

- i. V. 36

7.36 asked Jesus. Inviting a traveling teacher for dinner would be viewed as virtuous (but cf. vv. 44–46). took his place. This is translated in some versions as "reclined."

Reclining as opposed to merely sitting indicates that it was a banquet, perhaps in Jesus' honor.

ii. Anointing feet with oil ... read Matthew 26:7

iii. V. 38

7.38 behind him. Banqueters reclining on couches would face the tables with their feet pointed away from the tables; one approaching Jesus' feet thus would stand behind him. dry . . . with her hair. Most adult Jewish women in Judea and Galilee were married, and Jewish custom considered it shameful for a married woman to have her hair uncovered, as it must be here.

iv. V. 41

7.41 debtors. Those in debt could lose their property or even be reduced to temporary servitude. five hundred denarii. More than a year's wages for an average worker.

v. V. 44

7.44 Only servants or persons of low rank normally washed feet, but all good hosts would supply water for the guest to wash his feet. Setting aside normal protocols, Jesus openly exposes his host's inhospitality. If intentional, Simon's actions were conspicuously rude and demeaning toward Jesus.

vi. V. 45-46

7.45-46 Greeting a teacher with a kiss and providing a guest oil for him to anoint his head were basic courtesies. Again (see v. 44), the host may have conspicuously insulted Jesus, or at least treated him as being of low rank (which most teachers would have viewed as insulting).

vii. V. 49

7.49 Who is this who even forgives sins? Although priests might pronounce God's forgiveness, only God could forgive sins (Mic 7.18).

c. Thoughts and questions

i. Name all the characters in this scripture.

1. In case they miss any here is a list: Pharisee, Jesus, prostitute, Simon, others who were eating at the table.
2. Which character grabbed your attention first?
3. Which character do you think was the main character of the story?
4. What can we learn from some of those other minor characters (like Peter being chastised for his lack of hospitality)?
5. Discuss how the prostitute must have felt being an outcast, but being fully accepted by Jesus?
6. Are there people in our lives and in our world whom we do not accept because they don't meet our standards, just like that prostitute?
7. Have you ever felt like one of the outcasts from society or people? Discuss it.
8. How accepting are we at SCCC of ALL people? Discuss honestly.
9. How can we make sure that all people know we accept them?

4. Prayer

a. Close with a prayer for all the people who have been made to feel like they don't belong in the kingdom of God and are loved by Christ.