

Summary of the Sermon

Our 2nd person who sought out Jesus = Luke 7.36-50.
The sermon was entitled, "Come to Jesus (Week 2) - An Uninvited Dinner Guest."

Jesus Himself tells us what our takeaway should be from this deeply-moving encounter in vs. 47-48.



First, He tells us that there can be a direct correlation between how much we love Jesus, and how much we think we've been forgiven by Him.

There is no stronger word to describe our relationship with Jesus than love ("agape" in vs. 47): the nameless woman in the story embodies this agape love for Him by taking a great risk coming to Him at a dinner to which she wasn't invited, and through the costly perfumed ointment she uses to anoint His feet.

We love Jesus - beyond merely believing in or following Him - when we realize how much we need Him. Without Him in our lives, we are lost. That's how the notoriously-sinful woman felt. Jesus isn't an add-on, He's everything.

Second, reread verses 47-48 and ask yourself, "When did Jesus forgive the woman?" Verse 47 uses the perfect tense, meaning that it happened before He ever said that He did (v. 48), and before He ever addresses her in the story. This may well mean that the nameless woman sought out Jesus not because she wanted His forgiveness, but that she knew that He would forgive her, because at heart He's a forgiver. Imagine how liberating it would be to approach God every single time remembering that He has already made up His mind to forgive you and show you grace...

The story ends with Jesus telling the woman to go in peace (v. 50). Of all the ways we try to find peace of mind, this is one way that Jesus says will work: admit that you need to be forgiven a lot, and know that God is ready and waiting to do just that, and then let love for that forgiving, merciful God grow within your grateful heart.

Quotes to Remember

1) Justo Gonzalez, renowned church historian, writing about Luke 7.36-50:

"This is one more passage in which Luke presents the radical reversal that Jesus preaches. The sinful woman is able to receive and accept grace in a way that the religious Pharisee cannot...Jesus' teaching is not about religion, or how to be more religious, or how to gain God's acceptance. It is about a God whose acceptance of sinners is assumed, and the religious find this truth jarring...It is about sinners who rejoice at the great forgiveness they have received, and religious people who wish God were Himself a little more religious..."

2) Martin Luther:

"May a merciful God preserve me from a Christian Church in which everyone is a saint! I want to be and remain in the church and little flock of the fainthearted, the feeble and the ailing, who feel and recognize the wretchedness of their sins, who sigh and cry to God incessantly for comfort and help, and who believe in the forgiveness of sins."

Keep Luke 7.36-50 Close This Week

Two passages later in Luke have a similar emphasis to this one at the end of Luke 7, both are well-known. You could use these texts in your devotional life this week:

[Luke 15.11-32 NRSV](#)

[Luke 18.9-14 NRSV](#)

And here's a daily devotional to use later this week by way of reminder:

[What's Under Your Rug?](#)

Last, use this simple prayer throughout the week, inspired by the story in Luke 7.36-50 (by Jan Richardson):

"Lord God, when I feel ashamed and broken, help me come to You without hesitation, and seek Your lavish grace and extravagant love, knowing that You forgive me before I even ask for it. And when I encounter the brokenness and shame of the world, help me show them the same grace and love that I receive from You, amen."