

YOUR STORY

Scott Lanigan, June 19, 2022

TEXT

Luke 7:36-50

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What does it feel like to be “included” or “excluded”?
2. What do we learn about God by seeing Jesus’ posture towards the woman?
3. What is one step you can take to invite someone who doesn’t usually belong into Jesus’ family?

LOOK TO THE WORD

Read Luke 7:36-50

- What is important to consider about the “setting” of the story?
- What is important to consider about the people (“characters”) in the story?
- Scott said, “If Jesus was going to succeed, He would have been spending time with the ‘movers and the shakers’, but He wasn’t.” Why would Jesus be with the Pharisees and not with the outcast and the broken?

A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. *Luke 7:37*

- Why does Luke describe the woman by her ‘sinful life’?
- What would have happened as she stepped into the Pharisee’s house?

As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. *Luke 7:38*

- Why are the woman’s actions important to Jesus? To the Pharisees?
- What do the woman’s actions reveal about who she understands Jesus to be?

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner." Luke 7:39

- Why did the Pharisee think Jesus was a prophet?
- What does the Pharisee's posture towards the woman reveal about his own sinful status?
- In what ways is Jesus a prophet?

Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." Luke 7:47-48

- What does it mean to have sins forgiven?
- Is the forgiveness of sins reliant on "her great love" that is shown?
- Describe the connection between "forgiven little" and "loves little".

"Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light." Matthew 11:28-30

- Describe your reaction to Matthew's account of Jesus. What stands out? Where do you have questions?

LOOK INWARD

Scott opened our time asking about a time when you felt left out.

- When was the time you felt left out?
- How did it make you feel?

The sinful woman has more in common with us than many of us think.

- Personal reflection: in what ways do you live a sinful life?
- What can keep you away from stepping into a room with Jesus like the woman did?

Essentially, Jesus says to the woman, "You are whole. You are new. Your past no longer has a hold on you."

- How has Jesus made you whole? Or made you new?
- How has Jesus released you from your past?

Jesus is declaring loud and clear that those who everyone else rejects are still invited to His family.

- What does it mean to be a part of Jesus' family?
- How do you know you're part of Jesus' family?
- How does being a part of His family change how you think, speak, act?

LOOK OUTWARD

Scott said, "Pointing out this women's sins didn't lead her out of a life-style of sin... What was it that changed her? An invitation to know the Son of God."

- How do your neighbours (and the rest of the world) understand "sin" today?
- When we point out someone's sins, how do they respond?
- In what ways can you invite them to know Jesus, instead of pointing out sins?

The Pharisee throws a party and a woman arrives that was not invited.

- How can you create spaces where everyone is invited?
- What would it look like for you to invite people to be part of your family (and Jesus' family)?

SO WHAT...

You are always invited.

If you feel like a failure, have doubts, baggage, a dark past...

Come as you are. Come to Jesus.

PRACTICE THIS WEEK

Testimony

Sharing your story reveals to others what God has done in your life. What you think might be insignificant may be exactly what someone else needs to hear. Take 15 minutes this week to share your story, using the following steps.

1. Before I Accepted Christ

- What did my life revolve around the most?
- Where did I find my security and happiness?
- How did these things begin to let me down?

2. How I Received Christ

- When was the first time I heard the Gospel?
- What were my initial reactions?
- When did my attitude begin to turn around? Why?
- What were the final struggles I experienced before I accepted Christ?
- Why did I go ahead and accept Christ?

3. After I Accepted Christ

- What were specific changes or examples of the changes Jesus made in my life?
- Why am I motivated differently now?

NEVER STOP PRAYING

- Praise God for the baptism stories we heard today
- Praise God that He keeps working in the lives of our family, friends and neighbours
- Pray for more people to hear about and receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour
- Pray for the renovation and renewal team
- Pray for our congregational meeting on June 21
- Pray for our leadership (staff, elders and deacons) as they lead into this next church season

NEXT WEEK

- Baptisms and Church Family Picnic at Green Bay Bible Camp
 - SUNDAY ONLY, 10am