



## OPEN

---

When someone has done something for you of great significance, our response is usually one of gratitude. This week's scripture revolves around the story of a woman at a dinner party who knew she had been forgiven of her sin. In your bible, she may be referred to as the 'sinful woman.' But after encountering Jesus, she should probably be known as 'the forgiven woman.' Remarkably, Luke tells us that this woman shows something for Jesus that the host of this party, Simon the pharisee, did not – gratitude and honour. Jesus' love for her drove her to show Jesus gratitude and honour. In typical 'Jesus fashion,' Jesus tells Simon a story to help him see that someone who has been forgiven much, loves much. What Simon doesn't seem to see is that he too is a sinner in need of God's forgiveness. How is your honour toward Jesus?

## REFLECT

---

- In our text, where are Jesus and the pharisees seated? Where initially is the woman in the room? What does this suggest about her status? How is she breaking 'protocol' by what she is doing?
- In honour of Jesus, this woman does three things – three things that Simon the pharisee does not do. What are they?
- In v. 40, Jesus directs his words not to the woman but to Simon. What do you imagine was the tone of Jesus' words?
- If you could guess, why do you think Luke does not include Simon's response to Jesus at the end?

## DISCUSS

---

- Like in so many passages in the gospels, here again, Jesus seems to up-end ways of thinking about people and our lives. What does Jesus seem to up-end in this story?
- What do you think – in your own words – Jesus wanted Simon the pharisee to see in seeing the dramatic response of this woman?
- In the story, it seems the woman is stepping in to give Jesus what others weren't. What does she bring and use to honour Jesus? What lessons are there in her actions for ways we can honour Jesus with what we have?
- Imagining the moment of the story, describe and contrast the feelings of Simon with the feelings of the woman. What feeling do you have toward Jesus these days?
- It is likely that the woman broke social convention in letting down her hair in public, touching a man other than her husband, and being emotional. Is Jesus bothered? Why, or why not? What seems important to Jesus in all this?
- Last question: What has changed about this woman's life? What is the change Jesus is offering Simon? Us?

## APPLY

---

- There are two categories of sinners in this story – law-breakers and law-keepers. Both in need of God's forgiveness. What category do you most relate to?
- What can you do to cultivate every day gratitude to Jesus?
- Brainstorm ways that we can honour Jesus in our life.

## PRAY

---

- Take time as a group to give Jesus gratitude and thanks for his forgiveness. Thank Him for what He has done.
- Give Jesus heart-felt praise for who He is.
- Ask the Holy Spirit for a new level of love for Jesus and sensitivity to His heart, that we might not grieve Him.
- Please pray for our Alliance denomination leadership and for the choosing of a new president in July 5-9.