



Study 4

Luke 7:36-50

SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR STUDY

Getting Started

1. What kind of things prompt you to thank people? How do you like to thank people (gifts, words of appreciation, acts of service...)? What is important about thanking people – for them, for you, for those around them?
2. Have you been embarrassed about how someone has thanked you? Why?

READ LUKE 7:36-50

Every host's nightmare

Jesus has been invited to a dinner party and at the party there is an incident.

3. What happens at the party that causes a commotion? 36-39, 48-49

Jesus tells a story to highlight the real incident 40-47.

4. Who does Jesus tell the story to? How does it flip Simon's thoughts around? (v39-40)
5. Who is represented by the servants and the master? What does the debt represent?
6. In twos or threes go through the passage and explore how the different people at the dinner party see others and themselves... (You could give each group one character and how they see themselves and the others) v. 36-39

	Woman	Simon	Jesus	Other guests
Woman				
Simon				
Jesus				
Other dinner guests				

7. How does the woman's understanding of who Jesus is and what he has done relate to her actions?
8. How do you see yourself in light of the dinner party at Simon's place? Who do you identify with? Whose favour would you want?
9. How does your thankfulness to Jesus express itself? Why?

10. How does the way you thank Jesus express to others what you think of him and yourself?

11. What makes you hold back on thanking Jesus? (How might a reserved “arms-length” thankfulness express to other what you think about who Jesus is and how you relate to him?)

12. How can you show affection for Jesus that is a natural response to what you feel?

BIG IDEA

Extravagant thanks shows the joy we have in responding to Jesus’ generosity. Pride stops us from expressing the thanks we should. Uncertainty stops us from directing out thanks to Jesus. Living a life of thankfulness to Jesus points to our dependence upon Jesus and our joy at his generosity.

ABOUT THE PASSAGE

The dinner that Luke records displays the drama of different people’s understanding of Jesus and those whom he values. Simon is clearly embarrassed by a foot anointing that he did not organise by a woman he thinks should not be there.

Her actions show extravagant thanks in response to Jesus’ powerful love in action. Jesus has the power to forgive totally because he is God. Joyful thanks is a response linked to the understanding of our need and what we think Jesus has delivered in regard to that need.

Simon is standoffish with Jesus and yet Jesus knows his heart. Verses 39-40 show that Jesus understands Simon’s heart much better than Simon understands Jesus or the woman. Jesus is much closer to Simon than Simon is to Jesus.

The crowds are confused or angry that Jesus can forgive sins because that is God’s domain.

The woman who spends a lot of money on fragrance and doesn’t mind crashing Simon’s dinner knows the priceless thing that Jesus has done for her... He forgives her and the means by which he can do this will be dying in her place.

The parable that Jesus tells of the master and the two servants shows that Simon doesn’t think God has much of an issue with him. The woman on the other hand knows that her debt before God is immense. Ironically the woman is closer and more affectionate as a result of Jesus’ generosity. The debt he will pay for both of them will be his life.

The crowd doesn’t realise that Jesus is the master. He is the one who has the power to cancel debt. He is God. They are astonished but not overwhelmed with gratitude and joy that the one who is willing to forgive their sin is right in front of them.

This beautiful passage is very succinct. But within it we can see the range of human emotions: pride and envy and disregard but also deep dependence and thanks.

THE IMPLICATIONS

How should the reality of who Jesus is and what he can do inform our acceptance and thanks of forgiveness?

What stops us from expressing our thanks to Jesus?

Is it because we don’t “get” who he is and what he has done or do we find it a little embarrassing?

What do those around us think of Jesus when they see how we express our thanks?

If we are guarded in our thanks, it could be interpreted by others that we are good people trying to please God rather than those who have been fully forgiven by Jesus' power and authority.

What are the ways in which we can express our thanks to Jesus? Firstly as the expression of our own joy and secondly so that others can see the unconditional and powerful love of Jesus and our dependence upon him.