

*Jesus' Message:
A Debt, Forgiveness and Love*

Jesus' Message: A Debt, Forgiveness and Love

LUKE 7: ³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. ³⁷ And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, ³⁸ and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man was a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher." ⁴¹ "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my

head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." ⁴⁸And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Read>Study>Discuss: At the dinner party, what concerned each of the three: Simon, the woman and Jesus?

A five hundred denarii debt equals about two years of salary and a fifty denarii debt about two month of salary. *How did Simon and the woman differ in their debt?*

The recognition of their debt?

How did their different recognition make a difference in their experienced with forgiveness?

In the response to Jesus that each of them made?

How does the parable illustrate the debt, forgiveness offered and response made? Write your thoughts on the chart if helpful.

<i>Simon</i>	<i>Woman</i>
Debt (Recognized)	
Forgiveness Offered	
Response Made	

Review the notes below. *Was the main issue the debt owed by each or the recognition of the debt owed? Why?*

What was Jesus' message to Simon?

His message to the woman?

RELATE how it applies/discuss: To God | To Life | To People | To You

What has, or might it, mean to you to have your sin debt completely forgiven and be reconciled to God as your loving Father?

Where would you place yourself on this continuum with a “X” that best describes your relationship with God/Jesus right now? Explain.

Observer... Skeptic... Learner... Seeker... Follower...

Do you want to move further to the right? What would that involve?

NOTES on Study 1

Luke 7:36-50—Jesus’ Message: A Debt, Forgiveness and Love

- The issue of being religious but unloving (Simon) versus being non-religious—“a sinner”—but loving (the woman) provides us the challenge of who we identify with most. Do we come to God on our own terms in self-righteous pride, or on his terms, in humility?
- The gospel message is vividly portrayed in the story and parable: 1) We all have an *unpayable debt* (as sinners), 2) *debt is canceled* (through forgiveness), resulting in 3) a *renewed response* (love).
- The issue that love is a result of experiencing forgiveness, not the other way around, is seen in the woman’s motivation. When it comes to God we don’t start by loving, we start by being loved.

Study Format

➤ DISCOVER

➤ The Message

➤ RELATE

➤ DISCOVER: Who | What | Where | When | How | Why

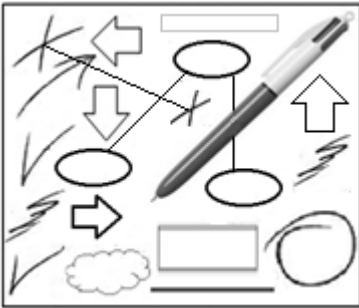
Look for the W's:

WHO is involved | WHEN did it happen | WHERE is it happening |

WHAT is taking place | HOW is it happening... and then ask...

WHY questions regarding what the author's message is about.

Mark It Up: Use a four-colored BIC pen or a variety of colored pens or pencils. *Don't worry about getting it perfect, just MARK IT UP!*



Use Pen(s) to Draw: Example

- Circles around people or places.
- Boxes around whatever you'd like.
- Underlines of key words/phrases.
- Clouds wherever you feel like it.
- Identify change of scene, watch for contrast, repetition, key words, etc.
- Write notes.

Example from LUKE 7: ³⁶ One of Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. ³⁷ And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, ³⁸ and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with ointment. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man was a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."...

To check Jesus out

Uninvited & Compelled

Note the action words

Inappropriate in public

"sort" of woman

Inappropriate to Simon