

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

**DISCOVER** *Read Aloud > Mark It Up > Discuss*

---

**INTRO:** Mary Magdalene is from Magdala, a fishing town on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. She is referenced twelve times in the New Testament. In Luke 8:2-3, the author lists

her as one of the women who traveled with Jesus and helped support his ministry. That same passage says that seven demons were driven out of her. Mary ends up being a witness to the Crucifixion, the empty tomb and the first to see the risen Christ. Possibly, she is the woman described in this passage. Whether it was actually her or not, this story well describes the kind of person Mary Magdalene became.



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

**LUKE 7:** <sup>36</sup> 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. <sup>37</sup> 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, <sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup> 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." <sup>40</sup> And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher." <sup>41</sup> "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

<sup>42</sup> When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" <sup>43</sup> Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." <sup>44</sup> 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. <sup>45</sup> You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. <sup>46</sup> You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. <sup>47</sup> Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." <sup>48</sup> And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." <sup>49</sup> Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" <sup>50</sup> And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

**4.** *What stood out to you about this the dinner party?*

**5.** *How would you contrast Simon, the Pharisee, with the woman?*

6. A 500 denarii debt equals two years of salary and a 50 denarii debt, two months' of salary. *How does the parable illustrate the debt, forgiveness given and the responses made by Simon and the woman?*

7. Jesus contrasts Simon's and the woman's actions toward him. *How do their responses show their understanding of their debt, the forgiveness offered, and the response made?* Use the chart if helpful.

<i>Simon</i>	<i>Woman</i>
<i>Amount of Debt (Recognized)?</i>	
<i>Forgiveness Offered/Received?</i>	
<i>Response Made?</i>	

8. *What was Jesus' message to Simon and to the woman?*

**RELATE** *How It Applies to God / Life / You > Discuss*


---

9. *What has it meant (might it mean) for you to have your debt of sin completely forgiven and be reconciled to God as your loving Father?*

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

---

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

*What would it involve for you to move more to the right?*

**NOTES on Study #2** *Commentary & Historical Context*


---

**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 with whom we identify most. Do we come to God on our own terms, in self-righteous pride—or on his terms, in humility?
- What Simon didn’t do was considered a customary greeting when an honored guest arrived at one’s home.
- 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.
- The gospel message is well-portrayed in the story and in the parable: (1) We all have an *unpayable debt* (as sinners); (2) *debt is canceled* (through forgiveness); resulting in, (3) a *renewed response* (love).

**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:** <sup>36</sup>One of Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. <sup>37</sup>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, <sup>38</sup>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. <sup>39</sup>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." <sup>40</sup>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*