

Home Group Notes  
Week of March 25, 2018

SHARE IT

How do you feel when someone gushes extravagant words of appreciation or admiration?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *I am easily embarrassed when people “gush.” This could be times of compliments, accolades given before speakers, passionate affection expressed in public, or even when people are extremely expressive in worship. In our story, this woman is over the top with appreciation and adoration.*

STUDY THE BIBLE

Read the story of Jesus in Luke 7:36-50.

What is the attitude of the Pharisees toward the woman? Toward Jesus?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *The Pharisees were a strict and elitist religious group. They were disturbed by this woman’s affectionate display. Because of their own hardened hearts, they did not believe they needed forgiveness from Jesus and therefore did not understand why she acted this way. They were condemning of the woman and Jesus.*

What do the actions of the woman reveal about her?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *Her actions reveal love for Jesus, gratefulness, understanding of what she had been forgiven, and understanding of the identity and magnificence of Jesus.*

What twist is in the story? Why is this significant?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *The twist that the lender forgave the loans. That doesn’t usually happen. And yet this is the point – God is willing to forgive our sin debts. He would do this by paying for it Himself. This is what Jesus was trying to communicate to them – ‘You too can be forgiven.’*

What are the many contrasts and comparisons in this story?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *The point of these contrasts is for the Pharisees (and us) to see the difference between people who do and don’t understand (1) the gravity of our sin, (2) our need for forgiveness, and (3) the great works of Jesus to forgive us. The contrasts are too numerous to list them all:*

- *Pharisees are contrasted with the woman throughout the encounter*
- *She was at His feet, they were positioned to be equal or above Him*
- *She was weeping with gratitude, they were criticizing with disdain*
- *She considered Him savior, they believed he didn’t qualify as prophet*
- *Two debtors*
- *She washed, kissed, and anointed Jesus - they did none.*
- *NOTE: Jesus washed, welcomed, and anointed us!*
- *Loved much and forgiven little*

What question does Jesus ask? What does this reveal?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *He asked who will love more. This reveals that when we truly understand what God has forgiven in us, we will love much.*

What is Jesus' final conclusion?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *Those who have placed faith in Jesus understand that they are forgiven much and will love much.*

How is a person saved from the penalty of their sins? (vs. 47-50)

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *Some could be confused by verse 47 ("for she loved much") and think that it is by our actions of love that we saved. Rather, Jesus makes it clear that it is "faith" in Jesus that saves us.*

#### DISCUSS TOGETHER

What do we learn about Jesus in this story? (Identity, character, attitude)

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *His kindness is without limit – He cared for both the woman and the Pharisees. (Some later believed in Him.) He wants us to know that He is forgiving, our expressions of love and gratitude are welcome, He doesn't condemn one person over another, and all can come to Him – even those who are known "sinners."*

The woman in the story knew she had been forgiven much. How did Jesus respond? What might we learn from her actions?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *She was completely given over in her gratitude and love for Jesus. She was willing to risk criticism and scorn in order to express her affection for Him. Shouldn't we also "love much?" Shouldn't we also be extravagant at times? Jesus was good with her expression and gave her encouragement and reassurance of her salvation.*

What might Jesus be saying to us in verse 47? In what ways, times, or places might this get expressed or lived out?

**NOTES TO LEADERS:** *This is very subjective. Many factors enter into 'how, when, where' we express our love and gratitude. But for sure, we should all love much. This can be expressed in prayer, worship, private devotions, public places, etc. We all have places where God gives us opportunities. I have seen it happen at sporting events and other media opportunities. Again – the main thing is to understand what God has done and express our love to Him.*

Praying that our Father will help us overflow with the joy of our salvation in Jesus,

Steve