

**MERCY UP CLOSE**

Josh Hawley, Pastor of Spiritual Growth

September 1, 2013

**Luke 7:36-50**

**The Pharisee's Dinner Party (verses 36-39):**

- Simon the host, Jesus the guest, and the uninvited, sinful woman.

**The Parable that explained what was really happening (verses 40-43):**

- Those who understand God's forgiveness are more thankful & loving than those who don't.

**Two Different Approaches to Jesus (verses 44-50):**

- With arrogance & distance because we don't think we really need His forgiveness.
- With humility & a desire to be close because we're so thankful that He's forgiven us.

**Taking It Home:**

- Our biggest problem in life is our sin problem (not finances, health, relationships, etc.) because it leads to death and separation from God.
- We can never earn God's forgiveness through a moral lifestyle or good deeds; it's only available through Jesus.
- Jesus decided to pay a debt He did not owe, because we owed a debt we could not pay.
- No matter who you are or where you're coming from, there's room for you at the feet of Jesus.

**My Next Steps Today:**

- I'm becoming a follower of Jesus today!
- I will use this week's LifeGroup StudyGuide and study Luke 7:36-50 more in depth this week.
- I will ask God for specific opportunities to express His love and grace to others this week.



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Bridge LifeGroups are **currently on summer break**. We will continue to offer study questions each week in this **simplified format**, which can be useful for personal devotions and/or discussion starters for LifeGroups that choose to meet for a portion of the summer break.

**Lesson Aim:** To grow deeper in our understanding of the depth of God's forgiveness through Christ.

**Prayer:** Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your personal study time and/or discussion.

1. Can you think of a time when you were forgiven by someone for something you did? If so, what did that feel like? Why do you think it's often so hard to ask for forgiveness?
2. **READ Luke 7:36-39.** What risk was this woman taking in coming to the house of Simon the Pharisee? What does this tell you about her state of mind?
3. **READ Luke 7:40-43.** What was Jesus trying to accomplish in telling this parable? Why do you think He told this parable instead of just coming out and accusing Simon of loving less?
4. **READ Luke 7:44-50.** What does Jesus see in this woman that Simon does not? How does this affect the way Jesus treats her?

5. Jesus was not so much making a point about the *amount* a persons sins, but more about the *awareness* a person has of their sin. To what extent did Simon seem to be aware of his sin? To what extent did the woman seem to be aware of her sin? Where do each of them seem to stand in God's eyes at the end of this passage?
6. How do you find yourself relating to Simon? Or the sinful woman? Or both of them?
7. Are there any barriers hindering you from accepting Jesus' love? Could it be pride (like Simon), unbelief, fear or broken trust? What might help you to begin to break down some of those barriers and receive the love He has for you?
8. Psalm 51 gives us a glimpse into the heart of King David after he was confronted by the prophet Nathan, as he processes the realization of his own sinfulness and asks for forgiveness. **READ Psalm 51:1-13** and write down any statements or thoughts that are important to you when dealing with your own sin.
9. How is David's response similar to or different from how you usually deal with your sin?

**Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.**

This **LifeGroup** Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our warm and friendly message-based **LifeGroups!** Get a copy of this Study Guide at [theBridgeFresno.com](http://theBridgeFresno.com) by clicking on the "Messages" link.