

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of May 7, 2017

Luke 7:36-39

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.

Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

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 a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. ³⁸ She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner."

Common English Bible (CEB)

³⁶ One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. After he entered the Pharisee's home, he took his place at the table. ³⁷ Meanwhile, a woman from the city, a sinner, discovered that Jesus was dining in the Pharisee's house. She brought perfumed oil in a vase made of alabaster. ³⁸ Standing behind him at his feet and crying, she began to wet his feet with her tears. She wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and poured the oil on them. ³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw what was happening, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. He would know that she is a sinner."

Connection Questions:

1. In this story how could we assume this sinful woman possibly was a prostitute?

2. Discuss why you think this sinful woman knelt down and washed the feet of Jesus with her tears. Why did she use expensive ointment to bath his feet?

3. Traditionally the host of the meal greets their guests with a kiss. Why didn't Simon do this traditional act? Why did the woman greet Jesus with a kiss?

4. Do you think this woman had encountered Jesus before this story? Why or why not?

5. The word sin in the Greek New Testament is hamartia. The imagery here is of an archer aiming his arrow at some object and missing the mark. Explain our human condition of our sins using this imagery.

6. Jesus did not use the phrase "hate the sin, not the sinner." Do you think that this is how Jesus addressed people in need in this way or did he have a different approach?

7. How are we similar to both the sinful woman and Simon in the sins they committed?

8. Why would it be important to be introspective before we consider judging the actions of others? How does looking inward *first* change how we judge others?

9. Many young people describe the church as being too judgmental. Do you agree or disagree with this perception of the church and why?

10. What can we learn from Jesus in how he responded to the sinful woman?