



BIG FORGIVENESS, BIG LOVE

SERMON DISCUSSION NOTES FROM 7/18/21

SERMON SUMMARY

Jesus (the Son of God) ate with sinners. He hung out at times with those who many would consider to be unsavory people. Perhaps you've heard this before, and it's most certainly true. But Jesus also ate with Pharisees. Pharisees were sinners too, but they were considered by society as the most moral and religious of people. By human standards, they were the good people. In this week's text, Jesus has been invited to Simon the Pharisee's house for a meal. Knowing Jesus would be eating dinner there, a woman, known by the community to be an immoral person, enters the house. Her appearance at this event gives Jesus the opportunity to teach an important lesson about forgiveness and love.

Key Passage: Luke 7:36-50

Be sure to read this Scripture passage together before you proceed to the "Grow" section of our study.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

KNOW—Spend some time finding out how everyone's week has gone. The questions in this section provide a guide for connectivity; feel free to approach this part of your group time organically over a meal or "connection" activity or with questions appropriate to your context.

What is one way God is challenging you to trust Him this week?

What are some ways you have experienced God answering your prayers lately?

Who in your life is in need of prayer, physical help, or emotional encouragement right now?

GROW—Grow in the Lord as you engage His Word together.

Who is the worse sinner here? What are the clear sins each of the characters in this story are guilty of?

Which one of these is further from God? (This is not necessarily indicated by their awareness of the distance.)

*Which of these personalities best reflects you? The woman who is deeply aware of her need for forgiveness or the one who thinks he **deserves** to sit at Christ's table?*

In Luke 7:47 Jesus said: "A person who is forgiven little shows only little love." What do you think are the implications of what Christ is saying here?

In what ways do you find yourself expressing love for God based on His forgiveness for your sins? Be honest...do you do that often? How extravagant is your expression?

Why should an awareness of our own guilt before God allow us to build relationships with people who's sins may seem more extreme than ours?

Jesus ate meals and spent time with people known to be immoral and the outcasts of society. What do you think are some reasons that Christ was intentional in doing this?

GO—Talk through ways you can put what you've learned into practice.

As you think through this text in Luke chapter 7, do you feel you are one who owes a great debt or a small one? Why?

Do you intentionally spend time with people who are far from Jesus? Why or why not?

Who do you know needs to experience the love of God through you as they wrestle with the enormity of their sin?

