

# Luke *Following Jesus*

## 3. Forgiveness and Gratitude

### *Luke 7.36-50*

**Aim:** To think about our attitude to our forgiveness; how far are we growing in gratitude and loving God as a response to that.

#### To start with:

- When people come to visit your home - how do you generally welcome them? What makes you feel welcome/unwelcome if you go to visit someone else's home?

Simon had invited Jesus to dinner with a large group - to do so was a sign of his wealth and status. A woman who was a sinner heard about it and decided to go along too. This sounds a bit like gate crashing the party to us, but in the culture of the day it was an acceptable thing to do, to view the guests - although she would not have expected to sit down for the meal but just be there and watch what was going on.

#### Looking at the text:

##### *Read Luke 7.36-50*

1.
  - a. From the text, what can we deduce about the ways a person was typically welcomed into the home in that culture?
  - b. Contrast the way that Simon welcomed Jesus and the way the woman approached him.
2.
  - a. What does Simon's attitude to Jesus seem to have been - and why do you think he'd invited him at all?
  - b. How do you imagine he felt about this women turning up and behaving like this?

3. What does the passage tell us about what saved this woman and the motivation for her actions?
4. Jesus said that, 'Her many sins have been forgiven – for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.'

How far do you think it's true that those who have done terrible things are more grateful for their salvation than those who have lived moral/law abiding lives?

5. Think about the following chronological progression in the Apostle Paul's life:
  - I do not think I am in the least inferior to those 'super-apostles' (2 Corinthians 11.5)
  - I am less than the least of all God's people (Ephesians 3.8)
  - Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst (1 Timothy 1.15-16)

What strikes you about this progression; wouldn't you expect people to be LESS sinful as they become more mature as Christians? Why do you think Paul's view of his sin changed like this?

6. When have you had time where you have become aware of your own sinfulness and what sort of response has it prompted in your heart?
7. Honestly, on a scale of 1-10, how grateful to Jesus are you feeling right now? What might help you to develop a perspective and response more like the woman's?

#### Prayer and response:

Spend some time expressing your love to Jesus for the way he has forgiven your sin.