

Costly Love (Luke 7:36-50)

Imagine a forgiveness that can overcome brokenness and shame, everything anyone has ever said to you or done to you, and everything you are tempted to believe about yourself. Join us for a beautiful story of shame lifted and forgiveness received, of faith expressed and love displayed. It's a story that helps define why Jesus came.

1. Offensive actions of an uninvited sinner (Luke 7:36-39)

Don't think "private" mealtime with Simon the Pharisee. People could come in and sit in the background / on the sidelines to listen. Open to the public, the meal would have taken place in Simon's courtyard. Everyone in town knew she was a "sinner" because her sins were public. Most likely a prostitute. She fell at his feet. Kissed his feet. Let her hair down. Poured the perfume over his feet. Simon judged Jesus and this woman – and all of it to himself, under his breath.

2. Costly love of a forgiven sinner (Luke 7:40-48)

Jesus tells a simple (profound) story. VV40-42

500 denarii = 20 months and 50 = 2 months. We get the point. One owed far more than the other. Neither could pay off debt.

A host would have been expected to: provide water for guest's feet, greet w/ kiss, anoint head.

By not providing basic hospitality Simon is treating Jesus rudely - with disdain - he's snubbing / shaming Jesus publicly (trying to humiliate). Imagine treating a guest like this. We have our own customs.

Everyone in the room would assume the Pharisee had the greatest love for God and yet Jesus honors a known sinner for her costly love. V47 tells us *why!*

If you think you haven't sinned all that much or that others need more forgiveness than you – it will undoubtedly impact the way you treat others and the way you approach God.

She wasn't there to pay back a debt like a prostitute who owes someone her services – she was there by her own free will, as an expression of love.

She entered Jesus' public humiliation and she brought him special honor.

3. Offensive actions and costly love of Jesus (Luke 49-50)

"Your sins are forgiven." Jesus confirmed what was already true = her forgiveness and his power / authority to forgive.

V49 the guests ask a question we're all meant to wrestle with.

V50 *"Your faith (trust / rest) has saved (rescued, delivered) you; go in peace (restoration / wholeness)."*

Jesus's costly love at the cross is enough to cancel your debt, remove your shame and overcome everything anyone has ever said to you or done to you – everything you are tempted to believe about yourself. Colossians 2:13-24

QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 7:36-50. What stands out to you? Does anything surprise you?
2. Why are the actions of the sinful woman so offensive to Simon and to everyone else present?
3. What is revealing about the Pharisees' comments in V39. What is his conclusion about Jesus? Why and how did he reach that conclusion?
4. Describe the story Jesus tells Simon the Pharisee in Luke 7:40-42. What's the point of the story?
5. As Jesus clarifies the woman's actions in VV44-47 he sets up a strong contrast between her and Simon. Can you identify the contrasts he brings out? Jesus also honors her. How so?
6. What should Simon have done as the host? Why didn't he express even the most basic hospitality to Jesus?
7. Have you ever felt beyond the reach of God's love? How do you fight against that?
8. If you think you haven't sinned all that much or that others need more forgiveness than you, how does that impact the way you treat others? How does that impact your response to Jesus?
9. How did Jesus display "costly love" towards us? Colossians 2:13-14. What does costly love towards Jesus look like?