

LUKE 7:36-8:3 *Jesus Forgives a Sinful Woman*

INTRODUCTION

In this passage we meet two kinds of people, a woman who knows she is a sinner (someone who has disobeyed God) and needs God's forgiveness, and a Pharisee (a Jewish religious leader) who doesn't see his own need for forgiveness. The forgiven woman responds to Jesus with great faith and love, while the Pharisee barely treats Him as a guest. How we respond to Jesus reveals the true condition of our hearts.

DISCUSSION

Talk about a time when someone forgave you. What was it like? How did you feel?

EXPLANATION

- How does vs. 37 describe the woman who came to Jesus at the Pharisee's house? *She was a sinner.*
- What did she do for Jesus? *She kissed His feet, washed them with her tears, and put ointment on them.*
- What did Simon the Pharisee think about that? *It was improper for her, a sinner, to do that, and if Jesus were really a prophet, He would have known that.*
- How did Jesus respond to Simon's thoughts in vs. 41-43? *He told a story about forgiveness.*
- What did Jesus say was the difference between Simon and this woman? *She knew she was a sinner and responded to Jesus' forgiveness with great love and respect. Simon didn't think he was a sinner who needed Jesus' forgiveness and so didn't show Jesus the honor, love and respect He deserved.*
- What did Jesus tell the woman in vs. 48? *"Your sins are forgiven."*
- How did the Pharisees respond? *They wondered who Jesus was by claiming to be able to forgive sins.*
- What do we learn from Luke 8:1-3? *There were many women who supported Jesus' ministry.*

APPLICATION

Who do you most identify with in this passage? Do you believe you are a sinner, or do you think you're basically a good person? The sinful woman believed that Jesus had forgiven her sins and so she responded by loving and serving Jesus with a thankful heart. Do you know that Jesus has forgiven your sins? If so, how can you be loving and serving Jesus, at home, at school, in your neighborhood?

Memory VERSE

Luke 7:49b, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" (ESV)