



The Essentials: The Gospel of Luke

Session 3: Luke 7-9:50

Opening Collect

Together: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Read: Luke 7:36-50

Opening Thought:

This focus reading comes within the context of Jesus' ministry in Galilee. In chas. 7-9 Jesus ministers to a remarkable variety of people groups, such as a Roman soldier, a widow, and a prostitute. The focus here is clear; while Jesus is still in familiar territory (Galilee), it is not the comfortable, satisfied, and well known that he tends to, but to the outcasts, the desperate, and the sinners. Perhaps the passages that help us understand these chapters the most are: 7:41-43, where Jesus highlights how the person who is forgiven of much is the most grateful, and then story of the transfiguration in 9:28-36 where Jesus reveals his true glory to Peter, John, and James. The glory of Jesus is greater than any of the disciples expected in the messianic promises of the Old Testament, *and* he is more merciful than anyone could possibly imagine—maximal glory combined with maximal mercy.

Discussion:

1. Read vv. 36-38 closely. What do you think everyone at dinner was thinking? Discuss how this interaction makes you feel?
2. What do you think would make someone behave like this woman? What do you think she was trying to do?
3. The Pharisees can't begin to imagine how Jesus could welcome someone like this woman. How might the church still welcome people like this woman?
4. How would you compare the woman and the Pharisee? How are they similar and different?
5. Have you taken Jesus' mercy seriously? How might you?

Check in and Closing Prayer

Luke 7:36-50

³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. ³⁷ And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, ³⁸ and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."

⁴¹ "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷ Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." ⁴⁸ And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."