

ICE BREAKER

Have you every been out for a meal and things didn't turn out as you had expected?

READ LUKE 7:36-50

1. Jesus sometimes entered into conflict with the Pharisees over how they misinterpreted and misapplied God's law. He once called them "*whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean*" (Matthew 23:27). With this in mind, why do you think Jesus accepted this invitation to join Simon the Pharisee for dinner? (v36).
2. When the sinful woman discovered where Jesus was dining, she intentionally went there with an alabaster jar of perfume and anointed Jesus' feet with it and with her tears(v37-38).
 - i. What methods do you use to express gratitude to your friends and family?
 - ii. How do you express your gratitude to the Lord for what He has done for you – what is, symbolically speaking, your alabaster jar of perfume?
3. What personal barriers would this woman have had to overcome in order for her to anoint Jesus in this way?
4. After telling a short parable which Simon understood (v41-43) Jesus said, "*Simon do you see this woman?*" (v44).
 - i. In what way did Simon see her?
 - ii. Simon's negative view of the woman had also led to him having a negative view of Jesus (v39). Can you think of any other ways where having a negative view of people or circumstances can negatively impact our attitude to the Lord?
 - iii. What would have been a more positive stance that Simon could have taken towards her, her actions and Jesus' response to her?
5. Jesus compared what the woman **had** done with what Simon **hadn't** done (v44-46). Bearing in mind what Jesus said at the end of v47 why do you think Simon may have neglected to do these things to Jesus?
6. Building on His parable, Jesus saw the actions of the woman as examples of her showing "*her great love*" **in response** to having had her sins forgiven (v47). He then says again to her "*Your sins are forgiven*". (v48)
 - i. Why might Jesus have felt the need to repeat this message to the woman?
 - ii. Why might Jesus occasionally repeat a messages to us?

READ LUKE 8:1-3

6. It appears that all the women mentioned were following Jesus because of some specific life changing healing or deliverance that they had received. Do you have a story that you can share of something significant that happened to you that led to you following Jesus?
7. What does it mean in verse 3 that these women supported Jesus and the disciples "*out of their own means*"? (NIV) and how can we follow their example?
8. Both of these passages of Scripture present us with the positive ministry of women in Jesus' life – all of which Jesus received openly and willingly. The role that women can serve within the church has for many years been a matter of contention amongst Christians. Where do you stand on the matter? What influences your point of view?