

SEQUIM COMMUNITY CHURCH
WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

The Sinful Woman

She was a sinner and knew it. She was also an un-invited guest at the house of Simon the Pharisee. Her intent was to worship the Jesus. She was not there for show but for substance. Of course Jesus embraced her passionate and demonstrative worship...something the Pharisees didn't do....wouldn't do. Her worshipful encounter with Jesus was punctuated by Jesus' declaration that her sins were forgiven and her faith had saved her.

Small Group Opener:

Part of the encounter of Jesus with the sinful woman is about acceptance. Share a time in your life when you felt accepted in an uncertain setting? _____

Please read Luke 7:37-50. and answer the following questions.

1. What does Luke 7:38 tell us about our sinful woman? _____

• What more would you like to know about her? _____

2. What emotion(s) does Luke 7:38 elicit in you? _____

How do you interpret her "closeness" to Jesus? _____

• What do you believe motivates people to break the bonds of convention and "let down their hair" in seeking to worship the Lord? _____

• Look up these examples of different expressions in worship. Note the expression in each of the following passages:

◦ I Chronicles 29:20 _____

◦ Psalm 47:5 _____

◦ Psalm 149:3 _____

◦ Psalm 150:5 _____

- Now read Psalm 19:14 and Romans 12:1. What do these two passages tell us about the type of worship that is pleasing to God? _____

 - Now read Joel 2:12-13. How do the actions and attitude of the sinful woman parallel what Joel describes? _____
3. What does Luke 7:39 tell us about the attitude of Simon, the Pharisee who was hosting the dinner party to which Jesus had been invited? _____

 4. In Luke 7:44-46, Jesus pointed out the things Simon didn't do, which the sinful woman did do. Clearly, who was worshipping Jesus and who was not? _____
 5. Luke 7:47 is a much-quoted verse. At the beginning of the story she is called a "sinful woman." Do you have any doubt that she was completely forgiven by Jesus? _____
Why? _____
- What do the following verses teach us about the reality of God's forgiveness?
 - Psalm 103:11-12 _____
 - Romans 4:7 _____
 - Romans 5:8 _____
 - Ephesians 1:7-8 _____
 - I John 2:12 _____
6. How do you understand the Pharisees remarks in Luke 7:49? Were they impressed or incensed? _____
 7. According to Luke 7:50, what has saved this woman? _____

Going Further – Additional Study

One surprising facet of our passage is that the sinful woman knew who Jesus was but the religious Pharisees did not ("Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?" Which is something only God can do).

The names of Jesus help us to know who He is and what He came to accomplish in our lives. In the Bible, names had more significance than we give to them today. As we look at the names and titles of Jesus, we can discover His purpose, position and promise.

- A. Read **Luke 1:31**. The angel Gabriel told Mary that she was to name her baby Jesus, which means "salvation of God."

B. Read **Luke 2:11**. An angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds and announced that "a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" was born in Bethlehem.

- **Savior** shows Jesus' purpose in coming to our planet. He has come to save the world, and save each of us, from a life of separation from God both now and for eternity (cf. *Romans 6:23, Romans 3:23 & Isaiah 59:2*).
- **Christ** reveals Jesus' promise. Remember, "Christ was not Jesus' last name!" Christ is his title. Christ or Messiah means the "promised one from God." Many carried the name Jesus in that day, but there was and is only one Jesus Christ. (cf. *John 1:41, John 4:25, I Peter 1:11*)
- **Lord** declares Jesus' position. Even at His birth, Jesus was recognized as the Lord of the Universe, which He truly is. The awesome reality of our relationship with Jesus is that we are now in a personal relationship with the God of the Heavens as well as the earth. This access to God should spur us on to a great conversation with Jesus in prayer, to seek His "out of the world" guidance and direction, and to walk in the light of His Word. (cf. *Matthew 17:4, Matthew 18:21, Luke 5:8*).

C. Jesus was very much God as we have just read but He was also a human being like us. How do we know Jesus was a man?

1. He had a very human birth (*Isaiah 7:14-16; Matthew 1:23; & Galatians 4:4*).
2. Jesus showed human Growth. Luke 2:52 says Jesus grew intellectually, physically, socially and spiritually.
3. Jesus experienced human emotions. He felt grief (*John 11:35*), sorrow (*Matthew 11:35*), amazement (*Matthew 8:10*), love for other (*Mark 10:21, John 11:5, & John 13:1*), wonder (*Mark 6:6*), distress (*Mark 14:33*), compassion (*Mark 1:41*) and anger (*Mark 3:5*). And finally, Jesus had human experiences and need---He was tired (*John 4:6*), hungry (*Matthew 4:2*), thirsty (*John 19:28*), tempted (*Matthew 4:1-11*) and death (*Luke 23:46*).

As God and man, Jesus is our perfect Mediator on our behalf before God (*Hebrews 9:15*).

Main source for this Bible Study is Liz Curtis Higgs Bad Girls of the Bible.