

## “A Year with Jesus”

### Week 12, March 21st, Luke 7:36-50

//What is the most extravagant gift of thanks you’ve given to someone you love? The movies are filled with examples that are there to heighten our emotions but are also often unrealistic. Publicized real life examples of extravagance happen when those who make it big give back to the important people in their lives. Most of us can’t match these levels of extravagance, but we can be generous in our thanks. Again, think of examples where you’ve both given and received heart felt thanks.

#### //Scripture Study

This week we start our story by looking at the end. Read Luke 7:47. Focus on the phrase “as her great love has shown.” This statement gives us a hint that what has just taken place prior to v.47 was an expression of great love. The woman in the story has somehow come to an understanding that Jesus has forgiven her (we don’t know how), and this forgiveness has inspired the act of love she’s just shown.

Now that it’s set up, read Luke 7:36-50, and keep in mind as you imagine the dramatic scene, that everything the woman does is shameful in this society of carefully followed norms. Look at each movement of the story, placing yourself in her situation, and imagine her emotions each step of the way, from walking into the room till leaving with Jesus’ blessing.

What do you observe? Is there a moment that stirs in you most?

#### //Living in the story

We are currently in the traditional season of Lent, and part of the season is a call for confession. Prepare to walk through the story as the woman by first offering a confession to God. Lay before him a place of sinfulness, disobedience, or struggle that weighs on your heart, but bring it with the assurance that Jesus will joyfully forgive.

Take time with this confession...

Now, just as this woman journeyed to Jesus in order to offer thanks, take your own journey to the house in this story, offer your own anointing and tears of gratitude in the presence of the witnesses, and hear Jesus offer his affirmation, forgiveness, and peace.

Consider some of the following questions as you live out this story.

- What is in the jar you bring to Jesus?

- Who is there in the house watching you (are they condemning, sympathetic, etc.)?
- What is it like in the presence of Jesus, being at his feet?
- After you’ve heard Jesus send you off in peace, what is it like on your walk home?
- How do you experience the character of Simon?
- *Be open to where God leads you as you interact with the passage. Keep in mind that your sense of who the bystanders are in the house or what’s in your jar might be completely different from how they are represented in the passage. They might connect to your confession, to your gratitude, or to your relationships; simply be open to God’s stirring in your heart.*

Journal your thoughts. Carry with you a sense of gratitude for Jesus’ love and forgiveness throughout your week.