

**Study Questions:**  
**“The Magnitude of Forgiveness” Part 1**  
**Luke 7:36-40**

**KEY POINTS**

- Just because someone disagrees with you does not mean you automatically shut down the door of communication
- No matter how Jesus tried to explain spiritual truths to some people they would never accept Him.
- Some people think it is not honorable to associate with people of ill-repute.
- When our self-imposed righteousness is so stringent then no one can measure up to it including Jesus.
- It’s easy to ignore someone when you have ulterior motives.
- Is the company you keep a reflection of who you are?

- 1) **READ** Luke 7:36-38. It is ironic that the Pharisees would invite Jesus to his home for dinner. Quickly scan chapters 1-7 of Luke. In Luke, what is said about the Pharisees before chapter 7? Using only the gospel of Luke, does it seem that they had developed a hostile stance against Jesus at that time? Now **READ** Luke 7:29-34. Did Jesus quickly discern the hearts of the Pharisees before they openly revealed their intentions? Exactly what in that last passage reveals to us the heart of the Pharisees? How would you deal with meeting people whose intentions were unknown to you?
- 2) We read and heard that the woman from the city brought ointment in an alabaster flask to anoint the feet of Jesus. But we also know her reputation preceded her. According to our passage, what was her reputation? How are Biblicist able to jump from a general statement about her (v. 37) to a specific statement about her occupation when no occupation is mentioned in our passage? Are there any dangers in saying more than what Scripture says?
- 3) Why would they allow this woman into the dinner hall in the first place? Was it a sense of duty that they allowed her inside or did she just slip by the “bouncers” at the door? What was her primary objective in attending the

dinner? The Pharisees were very concerned with *optics*. Did Jesus appear to be concerned with *optics* – how things looked to other people? Do you think there was a down side to being associated with this woman? How would you respond to a person of ill-repute wiping your feet with their hair when you were trying to have dinner with friends? How did Jesus respond within the framework of verses 36-40?

- 4) It was mentioned in the message that the woman was crying quite profusely. Why was she weeping and if Scripture does not explain what would you guess the reason would be? Would you say this woman was broken? What are the things that break you? How do you deal with an intense time of brokenness? Do you think God wants us to be broken before Him? [*How could the woman stand behind Jesus to wash and anoint His feet if He were at the dinner table having a meal? How important is knowing a few things about this ancient culture to understanding the Scripture?*]
- 5) What was the Pharisees' name? What was the name of the town where all this activity was occurring? We know the name of the Lord, of course. Why isn't the name of the woman mentioned? What does the Pharisee think of this woman? **READ** 1 Corinthians 15:33. What does Paul say and what does he mean? Now **READ** 1 Corinthians 9:20-22. What does Paul say in this passage? Is he being inconsistent with his theology or are we missing something very important? Which side do you think Jesus takes in this argument? How then should we respond to broken people and is it difficult?