



## The Gift of Acceptance

*By Shannon Ford on January 12, 2021*

**READING:** Luke 7

In our passage today, Jesus touches four different people. He is faced with the disease of a servant, the death of a son, the doubt of His prophet, and the devotion of a sinful woman.

In verse 36, a Pharisee invites Jesus to dine at his home. Into the refined dinner party comes a woman, a prostitute, unclean and out of place. She has taken a risk coming into the Pharisee's house but she must find Jesus, the friend of sinners. She pours out her precious perfume and her adoration on Jesus. Tender gratitude and love well up in her heart and find release in sobs and kisses. Jesus allows her to express her devotion, accepts her as she is, and forgives her.

Acceptance is the fruit people taste when we show them love. It means allowing others to be who they are without disapproving of or losing patience with them. The gift of acceptance allows us to see people as Jesus does. It opens our hearts as Jesus opened His. It allows us to freely accept others just as Jesus accepted this broken, sinful prostitute.

To whom can you give the gift of acceptance? Your spouse? Your child? Your neighbors? Your co-worker? Your in-laws? What do you need to do this week to show them acceptance?

**PRAYER:** "Father, help me to remember daily that it is easier to accept others when I realize how much You accept me and forgive me, again and again . . ."

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Luke 8

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