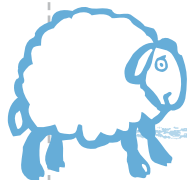




# Lesson Eight

## *The Forgiven Woman Believes*



### Nourishing Your Heart

#### Scripture

Luke 7:36–50

#### Bible Truth

The sinful woman came to Jesus in faith, and when the Savior forgave all her sin, her heart was filled with love and gratitude.

#### Lesson Aim

To thank and love Jesus for forgiving us for our sin.

The story of the sinful woman is one of faith, forgiveness, and loving gratitude. Clearly, at some point, the woman had heard and received the gospel. Believing that Jesus had forgiven her for her many sins, the woman went to Simon's feast and lavished her devotion on Jesus, anointing his feet with costly perfumed ointment.

Looking on, Simon the respectable Pharisee was most offended. In his view, the woman did not belong there, and certainly did not *deserve* to be in the presence of Jesus. Didn't Jesus know that she was disreputable, having broken ritual laws as well as moral laws?

What Simon failed to realize was that he, too, did not merit God's love and forgiveness. The Pharisee's pride and self-righteousness revealed his sinful heart, his depravity. Sadly, he was unaware of his true condition.

This meaningful story tells us that God forgives those who trust him in their need, recognizing the greatness of their sin. Jesus knew everything about the woman; he knew every detail of her sordid past. Yet he was willing to break the rules against speaking with her and allowing her to touch him. Jesus permitted the woman to welcome him to Simon's house and anoint his feet in plain view of everyone there. He knew that she came in humble acknowledgement of her sinfulness. She came in faith and gratitude, knowing the wideness of God's mercy, the depth of the Savior's forgiveness.

Jesus knew what Simon was thinking and told a simple parable to teach an important lesson: Those who have not recognized their sin and their need of forgiveness are indifferent to the Savior; only those who have seen themselves as helpless sinners fall at the Savior's feet in loving worship.

Like the forgiven woman, we need to acknowledge our depravity, realizing that God is concerned with our heart condition. When we realize the extent of our sin and the greatness of God's forgiveness—the wideness of his mercy and grace—then our hearts will be filled with love for the Savior. Our faithful service in God's kingdom flows out of obedient hearts, our loving response to the gift of salvation he has given us.

Pray for your children by name, asking that each of them will come to Jesus with the same simple trust and heartfelt love as the woman at Simon's feast.

#### Memory Verse

##### REVIEW:

MATTHEW 5:16  
PHILIPPIANS 2:13  
EPHESIANS 2:8–10  
JOHN 3:30