

St. Michael's Church Adult Study

June 25, 2023

Luke 7:

³⁷ A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. ³⁸ As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," he said.

⁴¹ "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii,^[a] and the other fifty. ⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

⁴³ Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

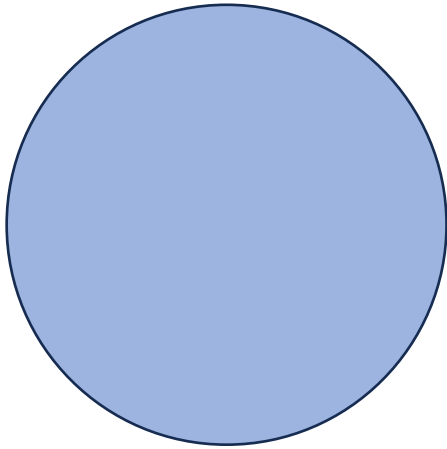
⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

⁴⁹ The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

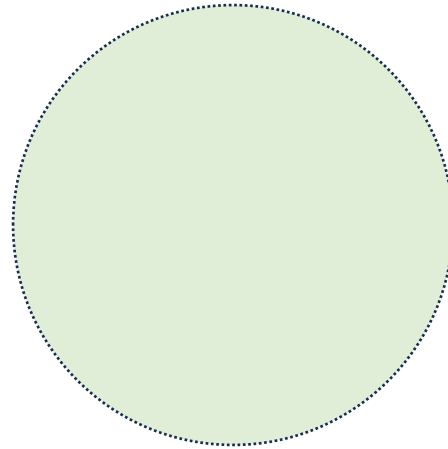
Jesus said his mission would be verified by the existence of a community of irrationally loving disciples. Yet often, Christians, who define themselves by affirming right beliefs, often wrestle with having a reputation for exclusivity and judgmentalism, a spirit of us versus them, etc.

Bounded Sets and Centered Sets



BOUNDED
(Carefully Defined Boundary)

Joshua 2:1 – “Rahab the prostitute”
Joshua 6:17 – “Rahab the prostitute”
Joshua 6:25 – “Rahab the prostitute”
Hebrews 11:31 – “the prostitute Rahab”
James 2: 25 – “Rahab the prostitute”



CENTERED
(Relationship to the Center)

Heb: “Had faith – welcomed spies”
James 2: “Considered Righteous”
Matt 1: “Mother of Boaz...father of Obed (+ Ruth = Jesse, who = David)

Pablo Casals— “Because I think I’m getting better.”

“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect...But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus” (Phil 3:12-14)

“Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose” (Philippians 2:12-13).

“The world does not consist of 100 percent Christians and 100 percent non-Christians. There are people (a great many of them) who are slowly ceasing to be Christians but who still call themselves by that name: some of them are clergymen. There are other people who are slowly becoming Christians though they do not yet call themselves so...It is some use comparing cats and dogs... because there one knows definitely which is which. Also, an animal does not turn (either slowly or suddenly) from a dog into a cat.” (CS Lewis, Mere Christianity)

So What?