

A Scandalous Encounter

Luke 7:36-50



Luke 7:36-38

Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him, and He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.

And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume.



Luke 7:39-43

Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner.” And Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” And he replied, “Say it, Teacher.”

“A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?”

Simon answered and said, “I suppose the one whom he forgave more.” And He said to him, “You have judged correctly.”



Luke 7:44-48

Turning toward the woman, He said to Simon,
“Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet.

You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume. For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.” Then He said to her,
“Your sins have been forgiven.”



Luke 7:49-50

Those who were reclining at the table with Him
began to say to themselves,
“Who is this man who even forgives sins?”
And He said to the woman,
“Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”





Main Point

Those who are aware of their great sin and great need and who receive Jesus' forgiveness will be those whose love for Him and mercy toward others will be great.



A Scandalous Encounter

Circumstances



What were the circumstances?

The context



Luke 7:31-34

“To what then shall I compare the men of this generation,
and what are they like?

They are like children who sit in the market place and call
to one another, and they say, ‘We played the flute for you,
and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’

For John the Baptist has come eating no bread
and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon!’

The Son of Man has come eating and drinking,
and you say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard,
a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’”



What were the circumstances?

The context

An invitation



Luke 7:36

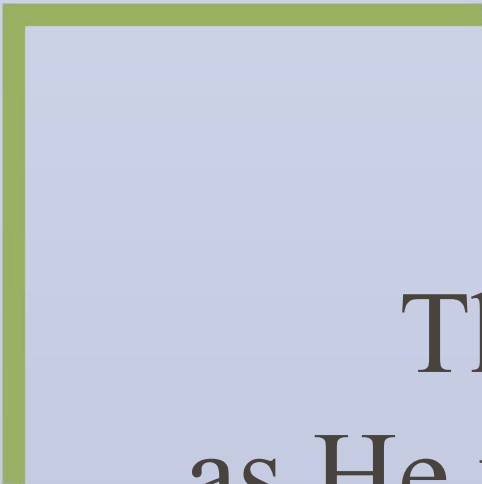
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Luke 7:36

Now *one of the Pharisees* was requesting
Him to dine with him,
and He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.





There is irony in Jesus' impartiality
as He willingly dines with a Pharisee having
been accused of dining with sinners.
He knows that they are really
one and the same!



What were the circumstances?

The context

An invitation

The setting



Luke 7:36-37

He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.
And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner;
and when she learned that He was reclining
at the table in the Pharisee's house,
she brought an alabaster vial of perfume,
and standing behind Him at His feet...



Luke 7:36-37

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Luke 7:36-37

He entered the Pharisee's house **and *reclined* at the table.**

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and when she learned that He was reclining
at the table in the Pharisee's house,
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Luke 7:36-37

He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.

And there was **a woman** in the city who was a sinner;

and when she **learned that He was** reclining

at the table **in the Pharisee's house,**

she brought an alabaster vial of perfume,
and standing behind Him at His feet...





The feast would have been invitation only,
but the affair would have been open
to the whole community.

The woman's presence was not a problem.



What were the circumstances?

The context

An invitation

The setting

The scandalous encounter



Luke 7:37-38

And there was **a woman in the city** who was a sinner;
and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in
the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume,
and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping,
she began to wet His feet with her tears,
and kept wiping them with the hair of her head,
and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume.



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and kept wiping them with the hair of her head,

and **kissing His feet and anointing them
with the perfume.**





The scandal was not in her presence
but in her actions toward Jesus
and His implicit permission.

This encounter would have been
scandalous to the Pharisees.



A Scandalous Encounter

Circumstances

Contrasts



Remember the context?

Luke 7:32-34

They are like children who sit in the market place and call to one another, and they say, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’

For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon!’

The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’”



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What contrasts did Luke intend?

Eating and Drinking vs. Weeping and Grieving



Luke 7:32-34

When she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping she began to wet His feet with her tears...



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the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume,
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Eating and drinking are set in contrast
to weeping and grieving.



What contrasts did Luke intend?

Eating and Drinking vs. Weeping and Grieving

The “Righteous” vs. The Sinner



Luke 7:36

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And there was **a woman** in the city **who was a sinner**.

This notoriously “righteous” man is set
in contrast to this notoriously sinful woman.



What contrasts did Luke intend?

Eating and Drinking vs. Weeping and Grieving

The “Righteous vs. The Sinner

Smug Inattention vs. Humility and Gratitude



Luke 7:44-46

Turning toward the woman, He said to Simon,
“Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me
no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears
and wiped them with her hair. You gave Me no kiss; but she,
since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet.
You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed
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My feet with perfume.

Simon’s smug inattention to hospitality is set
in contrast to her profound humility and gratitude.



What contrasts did Luke intend?

Eating and Drinking vs. Weeping and Grieving

The “Righteous” vs. The Sinner

Smug Inattention vs. Humility and Gratitude

Blindness to Sin and Self-Assurance vs.

Awareness of Sin and Need



Luke 7:47

“For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many,
have been forgiven, for she loved much;
but he who is forgiven little, loves little.”



Luke 7:47

“For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many,
have been forgiven, for she loved much;

but **he who is forgiven little**, loves little.”

Simon was aware of *her* sins but blind to his own,
and his assurance was grounded in himself.



Luke 7:47

“For this reason I say to you, **her sins**, which **are many**,
have been forgiven, for she loved much;
but he who is forgiven little, loves little.”

She was aware of her many sins and great need
and was looking to Jesus for her assurance.



What contrasts did Luke intend?

Eating and Drinking vs. Weeping and Grieving

The “Righteous” vs. The Sinner

Smug Inattention vs. Humility and Gratitude

Blindness to Sin and Self-Assurance vs. Awareness of Sin and Need

Unbelief and Labeling vs. Faith and Loving



Luke 7:39

Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this,
he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet
He would know who and what sort of person this woman is
who is touching Him, that she is a sinner.”



Unbelief

Luke 7:39

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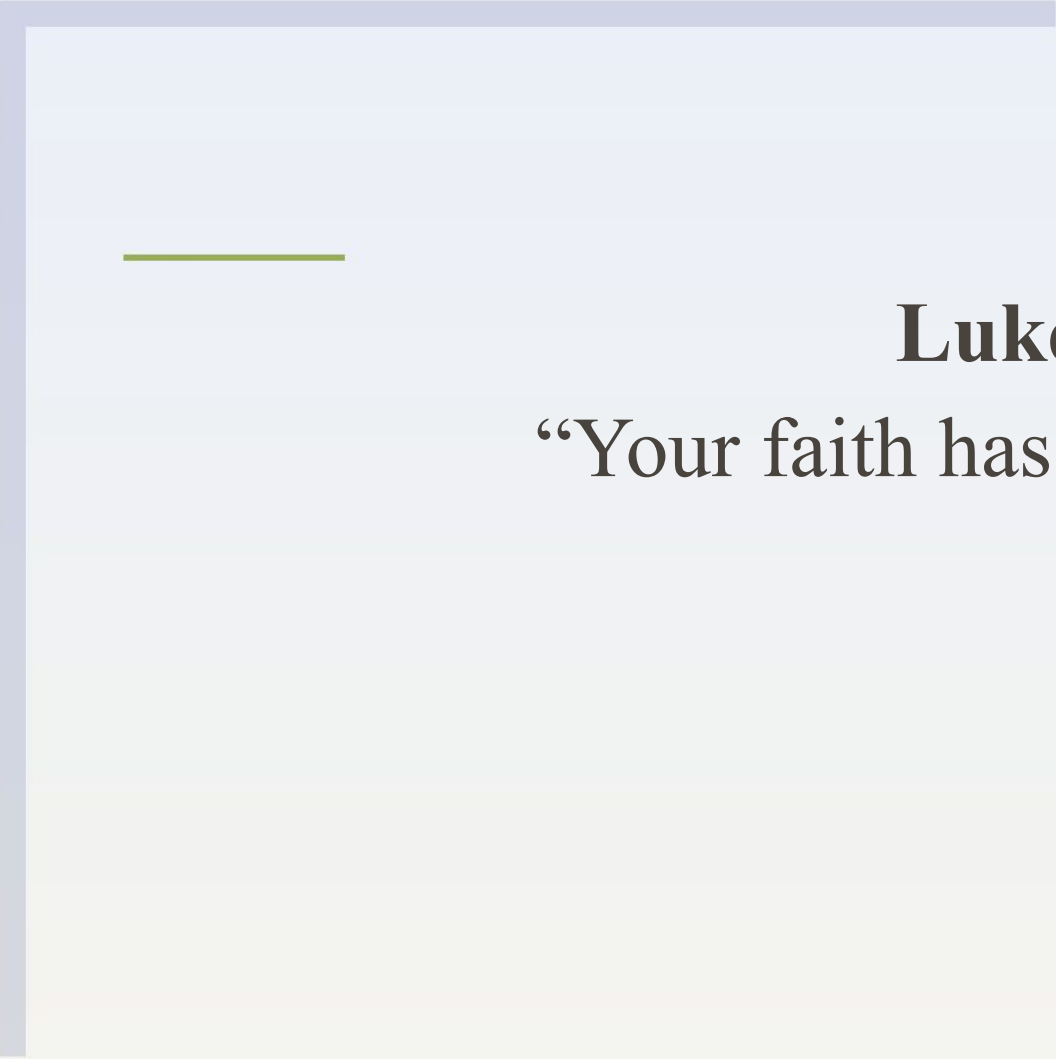
Labeling

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Luke 7:47 and 50

“Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”



Luke 7:47 and 50

“*Your faith* has saved you; go in peace.”



Luke 7:47 and 50

“For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many,

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Luke 7:47 and 50

“For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many,
have been forgiven, for **she loved much;**
but **he** who is forgiven little, **loves little.**”

“Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Her great faith and great love are set in contrast
to his unbelief and dismissive contempt.



What contrasts did Luke intend?

Eating and Drinking vs. Weeping and Grieving

The “Righteous” vs. The Sinner

Smug Inattention vs. Humility and Gratitude

Blindness to Sin and Self-Assurance vs. Awareness of Sin and Need

Unbelief and Labeling vs. Faith and Loving

Judgment and Rejection vs.

Forgiveness and Acceptance



Luke 7:39

“If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner.”



Luke 7:39

“If this man were a prophet He would know who
and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him,
that **she is a sinner.**”



Luke 7:39

“If this man were a prophet He would know who

and what sort of person this woman is **who is *touching* Him,**
that she is a sinner.”



Luke 7:48 and 50

Then **He said to her**, “Your sins have been forgiven.”



Luke 7:48 and 50

Then He said to her, “**Your sins have been forgiven.**”

“Go in peace.”

Simon’s judgment and rejection are set in contrast to Jesus’ forgiveness and acceptance.



A Scandalous Encounter

Circumstances

Contrasts

Conclusions



What conclusions should we draw?

It is the one with faith who will be saved.



Luke 7:50

“Your faith has saved you.”

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been saved *through faith*;
and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.



Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please Him,
for he who comes to God must believe that He is
and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.



What conclusions should we draw?

It is the one with faith who will be saved.

It is the one who knows he has been graciously
forgiven much who will love much.



Luke 7:40-43

And Jesus answered him,

“Simon, I have something to say to you.”

And he replied, “Say it, Teacher.”

“A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?”

Simon answered and said,

“I suppose the one whom he forgave more.”

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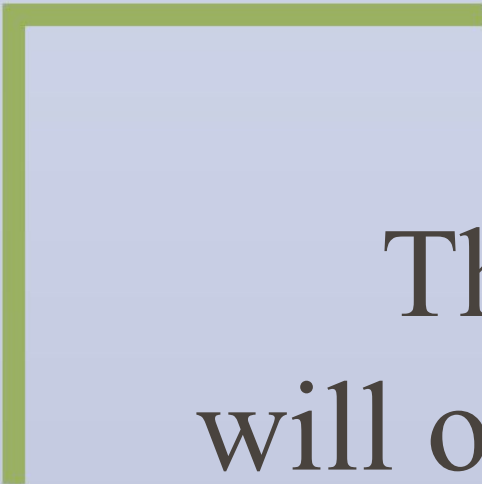
“Her sins, which are many, have been forgiven,

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Her great love *testified* to her awareness
of her great forgiveness.



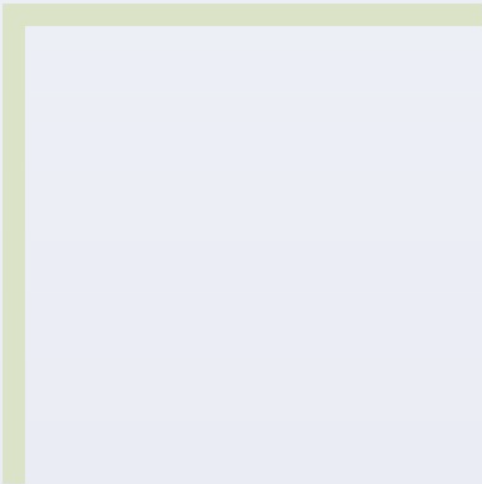


The great love of the great sinner
will overflow into a great love for Jesus.

And for other great sinners!

Those who have received Jesus' mercy
will be those who show great mercy.





For Reflection

Are you aware of your great sin
and your great need?

Have you received Jesus' forgiveness
and acceptance by faith?

Are your love and mercy overflowing toward
the other great sinners in your life?

