



Sermon Discussion Questions

Sunday, August 21, 2011

Introducing: Jesus and the Weeping Woman

Luke 7:36-50

Huntersville: Mike Moses

Davidson: Michael Flake

Note to Group Leaders:

Leaders, we have put more questions here than you may be able to use. The purpose of this is that certain questions will work for certain groups and so some of these questions will not be good ones for your group. So, pick and choose what works best for your group

Introduce it:

Today's sermon focused on "who is Jesus" by seeing Him through the eyes of a weeping woman and a religious leader. Two different sets of eyes on Jesus in this story.

Share as a group how you tend to look at spiritual things: are you analytical-examine every fact, intellectual, linear in your approach OR are you experiential-you have to feel it out, go with what feels right, letting your heart be moved? Share this as a group to learn how each person in the group "leans" in their approach to spiritual things.

Share about a time that you did something spontaneous that cost you a lot of money and later you really wondered if you should have done it. Or a time you did this and still today you believe it was worth it. Have you ever done anything like this?

Revisit it: learn the passage preached on.

Read the passage again as a group: Luke 7:36-50

This statement was made this morning about the passage: "The religious leader wants to learn more about Jesus but he also wants to stay in control of the situation." What does the passage say that shows this as true?

From this religious leaders comment, what do you think he believed about his life? What do you think he believed about his position before God? What was that position based on?

We saw in the sermon that the weeping woman saw her need was too great to keep control. What in the passage shows us this? What do you imagine she was thinking? What was going on in her heart? Why would she make this spontaneous response to Jesus?

From the parable that Jesus shared with the religious leader, what was Jesus' main point he was trying to get the religious leader to see? What places in your life are you still investigating Jesus and not yet at the place of really seeing you need him?

Why was the woman forgiven by Jesus? What opened the door for her to be forgiven by Him?

Giving up control is a hard thing. Part of it is simply because we don't know how. What do you see in this passage that helps us to understand what it means to give up control?

Relook at it: see other places in the Bible that speak to sermon.

In our sermon today, the focus is on Jesus' forgiveness and us coming to a place that we see we need him to forgive us. As long as we think we can fix our lives, we won't need him.

Read Romans 4:13-5:8 about Abraham's example of what it means to put all hope in what God is doing.

What is language used throughout this passage to illustrate giving up control and trusting God?

What verses speak to God's desire to forgive and to heal us?

Use it: don't just learn the passage but use it.

The religious leader was so focused on himself that he never saw the woman's hurt. He saw what she did and didn't do but he didn't see her-her brokenness, a life that wasn't working, a need to be rescued.

Who are people around you that you want nothing to do with because of what they do and don't do? It could be someone that just gets on your nerves, a person whose actions you would never support, or a person who you think deserves what they have gotten because of poor decisions in the past.

Try to have a conversation with this person this week and ask Jesus to help you "hear" and "see" their brokenness and not just their actions. Spend time with Jesus this week asking Him to show you why this person desperately needs His love and forgiveness. Spend time asking Him to help you remember how much He has forgiven you. Take a purposeful step to love this person this week.

Remember it: memorize a verse that helps you to remember and use it.

This week, try to memorize this verse: Luke 7:47

"Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven-as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

Write it on a note card and put on your bathroom mirror or on the dashboard of your car. If you have children, talk about this passage with them and tell them you need their help to memorize this verse. Ask them to memorize it with you. Let them quiz you during the week.