**Three Takeaways from the Dinner with Simon
*36****One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. Luke 7:36*
Food, looks can be deceiving
Chocolate in the baking drawer doesn't taste like candy
Restaurants…looks great…little food. French in England
hole in the wall….mr J's in Chicago
Pork stew in Mexico, really good. Mark Spurlock, pork intestines
Looks can be deceiving.
Pharisees: 6000 of them teachers in the synagogues and appointed themselves guardians of the proper observance of the law. 100's of rules to interpret the Mosaic Law in order to attain a legal righteousness. They had great influence and even the Roman rulers did not want to antagonize them. The major distinction of the Pharisees was that they gave equal authority to the oral law, call the additions to the Mosaic Law, as they gave to the Scriptures. They considered their tradition as binding as God’s Word, and many times it directly contradicted God’s Word.

**1. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?
How do I see myself
An Insurmountable Spiritual Debt***“A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver[[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+7&version=NLT" \l "fen-NLT-25205i" \o "See footnote i)] to one and 50 pieces to the other." Luke 7:41*
Which would love him more?
Are we obvious to our need. Neither debtor could pay.
We don't need a crutch, we need a stretcher.
We are dead in sin. DEAD.
Simon the Pharisee
Goal: unblemished by the world, obedient to the scriptures and to religious tradition, faithful to God.
Simply wanted to be GOOD. Good enough for heaven.

However, their hearts were far from good.
Inside they were bad, outside good.

Simon didn't know he was bad inside
Professional Christian, respectable church goers
"It's too easy to confuse good behavior with a changed heart."
Pharisees talked so much about obeying rules that they forgot to think about God.

Total Depravity
WE ARE NOT SINNERS BECAUSE WE SIN. WE SIN BECAUSE WE ARE SINNERS. —R.C. SPROUL
every part of man—his mind, will, emotions and flesh—have been corrupted by sin.

Simon's actions have shown little love, while the sinful woman has lavished love upon Jesus. Wash, kiss, perfume.

Simon was blind to his sin. It is not the amount that matters but the awareness of sin. Admit your need.
Simon was bankrupt like the woman, didn't see it.
Simon was blind to his guilt, his need, his Savior.

We don't say things out loud. We often think things
Jesus knew. Jesus publically rebuked Simon. Pride, self righteous, I know your thoughts and her sins.
We often are like Simon and not the woman.

What if Jesus sent you a sin debt every week.
There are no indulgences. No purgatory, no Mecca, no reincarnation, no money.

**2. Do you see this woman?
An Incredible Display of Gratitude
How do I See Others***“Look at this woman?” Luke 7:44*Religious people see other people's sins.
How do you see people. People made in the image of God.
Their debt can be cancelled. Holy Spirit has broken her spirit of resistance.
Jesus stern with religious people, loving to broken sinners.
See people through the lens of compassion.

Some are going to Hell, others have their sin debt cancelled.
Going to heaven.
The distance between God and man is REPENTANCE
The Pope, a stripper and the Cardinals

What have you done to say thanks
Serve, help, witness, give, prayer
What is your gratitude. Why do this? GOD LOVES US
wedding vows. I love you….so I won't do anything.

like this woman, who are overwhelmed with sin and guilt.
see that there is hope for the very worst of sinners who will come to Jesus for forgiveness.
Do you see her value to God
Do you know where she has been
Who they are or who they can be "in Christ."
Temptation is to compare yourself with others
If your drowning in 50 ft or 500 feet, makes no difference.

She had an unstoppable desire to be close to the One who saved her.

Worshipping Jesus: worship (falling down on your face) Passionately, humbly, publicly, repentantly, generously,

Giving her best…the perfume. A bit uncomfortable.

there are those, like myself, who were reared in the church or who have been in the church for many years. You are familiar with the things of God; perhaps too familiar. You can quote John 3:16 while yawning. The gospel does not stir your heart as it used to do. You need to think about how much God has forgiven you so that you will shake your apathy and love Him fervently.

People standing around the table. People at table reclining with feet outside.
alabaster jar most precious possession. Prostitute gets real close to Jesus.
Crying like rain. THEN let her hair down.
Only did this with her husband. Could be subject to divorce.
We all would react perhaps like Simon
200 silver…2 years wage. 50 2 months.
Simon was going to check out Jesus
Jesus ends up checking out Simon
We long term Christians know Simon
rule keepers

what level is your love for God, your love for Christ?  Does this seem so bizarre to you that you can't even fathom yourself doing this?  Have you come to Christ in faith and embraced Him and experienced this powerful and total transformation of forgiveness so that you're literally filled with joy and gratitude and love?  We should be marked by that.  It is that profuse love for Christ that is the single greatest proof visible to people of the power of the gospel.  An ungrateful, loveless Christian undercuts the testimony of the gospel.

Glenn who had been doing five years to life in Tehachapi Prison for drug dealing and other charges. got saved. His life was dramatically transformed from that moment.

God put in Glenn’s heart the burning desire to tell everyone he met about Christ’s love for sinners. Everyone! sitting in a restaurant when Glenn walked in and spotted me across the room. He loudly called out, “Praise the Lord, brother Steve!” Then, since he had everyone’s attention, he stopped at each booth on the way to where I was to announce, “Jesus Christ saved me from prison and from sin. Here, read this!” He would hand each person a gospel tract.

**3. Who is this Man?
Indisputable Declaration of Divinity
How to you see Jesus?**
***49****The men at the table said among themselves, “Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?” Luke 7:49*

Let us put on display our gratitude, our lavish love to our Christ and the world will take note that our sins have truly been forgiven.

Is Jesus crazy or maybe he is God who can forgives sins.
God loves us, pursues us, redeems us.
Her faith saved her. Not her tears or love.
*"Your faith has saved you." Luke 7:50*Her faith led her to love, tears and action.
We know we are saved same way, Jesus' words.
the Bible.
We need to accept it
1830 George Wilson to be hanged, refused to accept President's pardon

10 references to Jesus' feet.
An invitation to take refuge at the feet of Jesus.
laying at the feet of Jesus
Awkward, undignified. Liger there.
Notice these feet were dusty, calloused, willing to take the message around Israel, go to Jerusalem, to be pierced.

**BOTTOM LINE:**

**The best seat at the table was at the feet of Jesus.**

 “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” 1 Peter 5:5

No religious leaders says I am God and forgive sin.
Jesus does…..All religions are not the same.

Jesus is the creator of everything, the Alpha and Omega, Author and Perfecter of Our Faith, Bread of life, son of God, our deliverer, our redeemer, our advocate, Good shepherd, Great high priest, head of the church, Savior, judge, lamb of God, light of the world, the way the truth and the life, the resurrection, mighty one, our hope, risen Lord, wonderful counselor, Everlasting Father, King of Kings, Lord of Lords.

Be receptive of the need we have for Jesus
Be receptive appreciative and overwhelmed of the love of Jesus.