

**Luke**  
**See Jesus**  
**From Hopeless Sinner to Passionate Lover**  
**Luke 7:36-50**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / May 16, 2021*

**I. The Way You See Yourself Will Determine the Way You Approach Him**

**Luke 7:37** “And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner...”

**Luke 7:39** “...he said to himself, ‘If this Man were a prophet, He would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.’”

What do you think about that word “sinner” and where does it fit into your life? Does it describe you or does it just describe other people around you?

Simon didn’t think he was a sinner and so he didn’t sense a real need for a Savior. His opinion of himself was that he was a good man in the sight of God and others.

Simon’s real problem was spiritual blindness that kept him from seeing himself, this woman, or Jesus the way God saw all three of them.

The biggest thing that cuts you off from God is your pride masquerading as self-righteousness!

**II. The Way You See Yourself Will Determine What You Think Your Biggest Problem Is**

**Luke 7:41-43** “‘A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup>When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?’ <sup>43</sup>Simon answered, ‘The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.’ And He said to him, ‘You have judged rightly.’”

The point of this parable is not that some sinners have a longer, darker rap sheet than others. Jesus is not focusing on the amount of sin in a person’s life, but the awareness of that sin in their own heart.

Simon was guilty of the quiet sins of pride and self-righteousness, while the woman was guilty of the public and loud sins of the flesh. She had a reputation in the city while Simon’s sins were hidden to everyone except God. They were both spiritually bankrupt and couldn’t pay their debt to God, but Simon couldn’t even see it.

Self-righteousness blinds you and keeps you from seeing your own sin. Until you see your own sin, you can’t see your need for a Savior!

Simon leaves the party condemned and confused, miffed and maybe even angry, while the woman leaves rejoicing and filled with joy for the privilege of having worshipped at Jesus’ feet.

### III. When You See Yourself Accurately You Will Love Jesus Passionately and Give Extravagantly

When you know that you're a sinner in need of a Savior and that your sin debt has been taken care of in a way that can never be undone, nobody has to prompt you to worship.

Religion tries to use Jesus to get other things. Real Christianity says, "Jesus, You are my everything. I don't want to use You to get other things; I want to know and worship You more, so that everything else in the world is secondary to You being primary and Lord of my life."

**Luke 7:37–38** "And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment,<sup>38</sup> and standing behind him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed His feet and anointed them with the ointment."

This woman felt no shame in this public display of affection and emotion for Jesus! Her sins that had once been so public to so many were now being overshadowed by her reckless adoration and shameless worship of Jesus Christ.

The intensity of your love and worship for Jesus will never rise above the intensity of your humble, honest assessment of your true condition before Him.

If you say "I know I'm a sinner, but..." you'll struggle to really worship and love Jesus. Ask God to bring you to the point of saying, with no exceptions, "I know I am a sinner." Period. That's what sets you up to be the greatest worshipper and lover of Jesus Christ.

**Luke 7:50** "And He said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'"

Notice the verb is past tense. It's done and there's nothing else she needs to do because it's based on who Jesus is and not what she's trying to be or do.

When you're caught up in religion, you never have a past tense. You're never sure if you've done enough or done enough of the right things. You're always in process and therefore unsettled and uncertain about where you stand with God.

This woman's love for Him is evidence that she's already been forgiven. Her love for Him is not the cause of her salvation, but the confirmation of salvation and faith in Jesus.

If you've never accepted the depth of your own sinful condition, then you'll never appreciate the breadth of Christ's forgiveness and you'll spend a lifetime wondering why it's so hard to worship God and love other people.