

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 11, 2008

Passage: Luke 7:39-50

Memory Passage: Ephesians 4:32

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 7:36-38.** Who invited Jesus to his house for dinner? What is surprising about this (Luke 7:30; Luke 6:7; Luke 11:53-43; Luke 20:20)? What does this tell us about ministry even to those who reject the gospel continually?
- (b) Who else shows up at the dinner? What word is used to describe this woman? What do many commentaries say about this woman and her sinfulness?
- (c) What unusual act does she do? Read Matthew 26:7 and John 12:3. These are different incidents from Luke 7 but what do they tell you more specifically about the perfume that she used? What does this say about her commitment to Jesus?
- (d) What do her actions tell you about how she feels about her sin? Read 2 Corinthians 7:10-11, Psalm 6:6-8; Psalm 38:18; and Psalm 51:17 and discuss the different kinds of sorrows and tears.
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 7:36-38 and 2 Corinthians 7:10-11 and discuss the nature of repentance. Are tears required for repentance? What are some signs of true repentance? Spend some time thanking God for giving you a heart for Him.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 7:39-43.** What did Simon conclude about Jesus? What two things cause him to question Jesus' as a prophet?
- (b) How should Jesus' answer in verse 40 show Simon that he was wrong about one of his assumptions about Jesus (Luke 5:22; Luke 6:8; Matthew 12:25)?
- (c) How does the parable answer Simon's other objection about Jesus? What does this parable tell us about sin and forgiveness and our love for Jesus?
- (d) How did Paul see himself (1 Timothy 1:15)? What did Paul see about the grace of God that he received (1 Timothy 1:12-16)? How does our view of our own sin affect how we view what Jesus has done for us (Job 25:6; Job 7:17; Psalm 8:4)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 7:39-43 and 1 Timothy 1:12-16. What is a believer's view of his own sin? How is this different from that of a non-believer? Spend some time thanking God for the grace he has given you.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 7:44-47.** What three common courtesies had Simon neglected to do for Jesus? (Notice *what part of the body* Simon's courtesies were supposed to be directed toward; compare this with the woman's).
- (b) *Why* did Jesus say that this woman *did* what Simon had neglected? What was Simon's sin? How is our blindness to our own sin a hindrance to the gospel (Mark 2:17; Luke 5:32)?
- (c) Go back to Luke 7:42. *How much* does each of these debtors have to pay off their debts? How much can *you* pay for your sins (Psalm 49:7-8; Romans 11:33-35)?
- (d) Look at Luke 7:42 again. *How* did the master forgive them? What does this tell us about God's forgiveness to us (Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:8-9; Isaiah 55:1-2)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 7:44-47 and Ephesians 2:8-9. Why do we need God's forgiveness so much? How does He forgive us? What does it cost us? Pray that you might have the opportunity to share this good news with someone this week.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 7:48-50.** What statement did Jesus make to the woman? What does this say about him (Luke 5:20-21)?
- (b) How did she *know* her sins were forgiven (Luke 7:48, 50)? On what basis do we know our sins are forgiven?
- (c) Did her tears or giving of the perfume save her? What *evidence* was there that she was truly repentant (James 2:14-26)? What evidence was there that Simon was not? Why does faith matter (Romans 5:1; Romans 10:13; Acts 16:31)?
- (d) Look back over the miracles in this chapter. Which was the greatest (Luke 10:17-20)? Why?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 7:48-50 and talk about why Jesus said this woman's sins were forgiven. What is the *basis* of our salvation? What is the *evidence*? Pray that your life might lead others to know Christ.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Ephesians 4:32.** How should God’s forgiveness affect us? Read Matthew 18:21-22. What question did Peter ask Jesus? Did Jesus give a limit to the number of times we have to forgive a person or is this *hyperbole*?
- (b) Read Matthew 18:23-35. What parable did Jesus use to show Peter the reason he should forgive others? Compare the two debtors? Whose debt was the most serious?
- (c) How did the “forgiven” debtor deal with the man who owed him a small amount? Why was the master angry with his servant (Matthew 18:32-33)? How did Jesus apply this to *us* as believers?
- (d) Read Matthew 5:22-26. What does Jesus say we should do if someone has something against us? What should we do if someone sins against us (Matthew 18:15-20)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Ephesians 4:32 and Matthew 18:23-35. How much have you been forgiven? How should this affect the way you respond when others “sin” against you? Is there someone you need to forgive? Pray that God will change your heart and allow you to show grace and mercy to those who have sinned against you.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Luke 7:39-50. How would you distinguish between true and false repentance? Why does God forgive us our sins? How should His forgiveness affect the way we respond to others when they offend us? What are the proper steps to take when the other person does not respond? Pray that God’s forgiveness might be clear to all tomorrow, especially to those who do not know Christ.

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The Disciple’s Forgiveness

“her sins which are many are forgiven, because she loved much.”