

## **Jesus' concern for sinners**

Luke 7:36-50

One of the many great attributes of God that is truly amazing is His ability to love and receive people whether they are at their best or their worst. It is indeed good news to know that no matter who we are, where we've been, or what we've done; God loves us! God's love is unending, His mercy is everlasting, and His grace is more than sufficient to deal with any and all issues involving human beings. In fact, God is so concerned about ALL people that He specializes in inviting, receiving and welcoming people that the average religious person would not. We learn as we watch the ministry of Jesus here on earth that the very people that we may choose to not want to be bothered with are precisely the ones that Jesus takes the time to take a special interest in. God is concerned about ALL people, especially sinners.

While we do know that "*all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*"; It seems that in religious circles we often have a hierarchy of sins that often defines certain sins that other people have indulged in as being worse than our own. The truth is that God sees sin as sin, and while we may have sins different than those of someone else, it never puts us in a position to judge anyone else. God is the only judge. In the passage, Jesus is using this experience with the woman to teach a Pharisee a lesson about the right way to be concerned for the spiritual well-being of others. Notice from the passage:

### **1. The woman is undeniably guilty but still comes to Jesus**

It is made clear to us in the bible that she is a "sinner". It is well known, and obvious to all who are at the dinner. However, the woman does not let her condition stop her from coming to Jesus. She comes and expresses her love for Him in an unorthodox way, but it is sincere.

### **2. When the Pharisee sees it, he begins to judge Jesus**

The Pharisee begins to draw conclusions about Jesus because He allowed this woman to proceed with her expression of worship and adoration. He concludes that Jesus must not be a prophet, because if He was then surely He would know what kind of woman this is. He is judging the woman and Jesus for what is happening.

### **3. Jesus uses His prophetic power to deal with the Pharisee**

Jesus shows that He is a prophet by knowing what is in the Pharisees heart even though he does not say it out loud. Jesus calls him out by name and tells him a parable to prove the point that people who are forgiven the most will love the most. The issue is not so much the amount of sin that is forgiven, it is more so how much of our own sin that we acknowledge that we have in our lives.

### **4. Jesus forgives the sins of the woman**

Jesus acknowledges that her faith has saved her and that she should go in peace. She receives what the Pharisee did not; salvation and peace.