

For the week of August 7, 2016
Pastor: Dan Westman

Extravagant Love

Fifth week in the series "Stories of Welcome in the Gospel of Luke."

Luke 7:36-50

When a notoriously sinful woman disrupts a dinner party to honor Jesus, the religious leaders are disgusted. Jesus, however, receives her with grace. Through this story, we learn the lesson that changed this woman's life: understanding the depth of our sin showcases the magnitude of God's forgiveness and empowers us to love him with extravagant love.

Discussion Questions:

1. The woman in this story is a notorious sinner whose life is a mess, and yet Jesus does not shame or rebuke her. What does this say about who has access to Jesus? What is required of us before we approach him?
2. Simon failed to recognize the vast debt that he had accrued before God. How does this affect his relationship with God? Contrast this with the woman's understanding of her debt and its impact on her relationship with God.
3. The woman displays her love for Jesus in an extravagant way with no regard for what others would think. Does fear of others ever keep you from loving or serving God, as you ought? How might we overcome that fear?
4. When Jesus claims to forgive the woman's sins, the other dinner guests are appalled. In what ways is the Gospel message offensive to our culture? How might this affect the way that we share the good news with people?