

Dinner with Jesus pt. 3 – Forgiveness at The Table
Sunday, September 21, 2025

As you join this discussion, let the Holy Spirit guide you. Share your thoughts and reflect on the message. Work through the guide by reading Scripture and answering a few questions.

Open Up:

- In your family or culture, what does hospitality look like?
- When you think about forgiveness—either giving it or receiving it—what emotions rise up in you first? Why do you think that is?

Read Together:

Luke 7:36-50

³⁶ When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷ A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. ³⁸ As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said.

⁴¹ "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii,^[a] and the other fifty. ⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven

little loves little."

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Discuss Together:

- The story of "Paco" shows how powerful the need for forgiveness and reconciliation is. When you hear that story, what stands out to you the most?
- Simon invited Jesus into his house but didn't offer true hospitality. What might it look like for someone today to be "close in proximity" to Jesus but far from Him in heart?
- The woman in Luke 7 risked rejection, shame, and judgment by crashing the dinner. What do you think gave her the courage to go straight to Jesus?
- Jesus tells the parable of the two debtors. How does this story help us understand why the woman's love was so extravagant?
- Do you find it easier to identify with Simon (guarded, self-righteous) or with the woman (open, desperate, vulnerable)? Why?
- The message said: "To experience the real love of Jesus, you must be the real you." What makes it hard for us to stop hiding and be honest before God and others?
- In what ways have you personally experienced God's forgiveness freeing you—whether from shame, guilt, or fear?
- What's the difference between trying to *earn* God's forgiveness and *responding* to it? How have you seen this play out in your own life?
- How might our lives look different if we truly lived from a place of responding to God's forgiveness rather than striving to earn it?

Pray:

Pray that God would help you bring your real self before Him—without hiding—so you can experience the depth of His love and forgiveness. Ask Him to free you from shame and help you extend the same grace to others.

Invitation:

This week, take one intentional step toward "being the real you" with God or with someone else. That might mean confessing something in prayer, being honest in a friendship, or reaching out for reconciliation with someone.