



CALVARY MURRIETA WOMEN'S MINISTRY

LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LADIES

R&R BIBLE STUDY 2017-2018



LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LADIES

Women named "sinner": Lesson 21

Over the last 20 week, we've seen how much God cares for women. In the New Testament, Jesus treats women with such love and respect that it makes the Pharisees and other religious leaders' hair stand on end! (Well, maybe not literally!) We've read how women were among those who observed the crucifixion, how they were blessed with the opportunity to prepare spices to anoint His body, were the first to find Jesus' empty tomb, were told by angels that He had risen, and were the first to tell the disciples the news. Although first century culture usually minimized the importance of women, Jesus elevated them! There are so many women we could study. I read that there are over 600 unnamed women in Scripture. The two we'll be reading about this week are called "sinners." (How would you like that to be your name?) I'm excited to look at their lives and see how their encounter with Jesus transformed them, just like mine did. Have a great week, ladies.

First Day

1. Today let's meet our first "sinner" in Luke 7:36-50. Read her story and observe the facts. Who are the main characters? Where is the story taking place? What is her name? List any other facts you find significant.

2. What is the name of the Pharisee who is hosting the dinner? Are there others there as well?

3. How do you think they knew she was a "sinner"? (The word used here suggests she was a "woman of the streets" or guilty of "unchastity.")

4. Why do you think she was crying?

5. Did Jesus seem willing to have fellowship or conversation with her?

6. What did the Pharisees seem to think of Jesus' encounter with her? What thoughts were probably going through their minds?

7. Why do you think they were having Jesus over for dinner?

The Amplified Bible calls her "an especially wicked sinner," and in verse 39, a "notorious sinner" and a "social outcast, devoted to sin." Yikes! She is either called "the sinful woman," the "woman with the alabaster jar," or "the woman who anointed Jesus." The dinner party sounds like it was quite a feast. I read that the feast would have been in the typical "Greek" custom, propped up on their elbows while eating with their right hands. When I read our text, I wondered how she could just "come in" to Simon's house without being invited. I read that the "less fortunate," or those not invited, were allowed to visit such public banquets in order to partake of some of the leftovers. They also would hang out to try to hear important conversations. Women weren't invited to banquets, and rabbis didn't speak to, nor eat with, women in public. Women obviously couldn't recline at the table with the guests, so they most likely just waited around for table scraps. And this type of woman would not have been welcome there at all.

8. Why do you think Jesus went to a dinner like this? Why would He be willing to sit and dine with the Pharisees?

up in her heart and flowed down her face. Darkest shame mixed with a strange sense of lightness. The tears of a harlot, held back in anger from years on the street, were suddenly released and spilled out like perfume, leaving her vulnerable, exposed, repentant, not caring who saw her or what they thought of her.”

4. Write your own thoughts about this section ...

5. How long has it been since you've been “undone by His sinlessness”?

Jesus knew her heart; He saw HER. He came to this feast to do His Father's business. He had a woman to meet and minister to. Jesus came to seek and save the lost, and she had definitely been lost.

6. Do you think her tears were tears of joy or sorrow, or both?

7. How long has it been since you've wept over your own sin? It seems that her tears cleansed her vision and gave her a clear sight of Him!

8. Did Jesus accept her worship? How did this “act” become her gift to Him?

9. Not only did Jesus know her heart, He knew what Simon was thinking. According to verse 39, what were his thoughts?

3. Explain the contrast or the comparison between the woman and Simon.

Most roads were unpaved at that time and sandals were what most people wore, so their feet were usually dusty or muddy. It was customary for the host to provide for the guest's feet to be cleaned before the meal. **Simon did not.** It was a normal sign of respect to pour oil or perfume on someone's head, but the woman most likely felt unworthy to anoint His head, so chose His feet, showing Him respect, submission, and affection. **Simon did not.** Simon did guess the answer to Jesus' question correctly though, stating that the one who was forgiven the greater debt would naturally be more inclined to greater love. Jesus then applied the parable to the woman.

4. How did Jesus apply the story to the woman? What was He saying?
5. Then Jesus spoke directly to her for the first time, in verse 48. What does He say? How do the others respond?
6. In verse 50, what does Jesus say was the basis for her forgiveness, her love, or her faith?

Because the woman had been forgiven for so much, she loved Jesus very much, which we could see by her act of worship. The Bible Knowledge Commentary states that "Jesus wasn't implying that the Pharisees did not have much need for forgiveness. His point was that 'a sinner' who is forgiven is naturally going to love and thank the One who has forgiven her. Simon's treatment of Jesus differed vastly from the woman's. She was evidencing that she loved Jesus for she realized that she had been forgiven much. She knew she was a sinner needing forgiveness. In contrast, Simon saw himself as pure and righteous and therefore did not need to treat Jesus in a special manner. In fact, he did not even extend to Jesus the normal courtesies of the day; greeting a male by a kiss on the cheek, and anointing a guest's head with

a small portion of oil. In effect, he did not seem to think Jesus could do anything for him, for he did not consider Jesus a prophet.”

The woman was not forgiven because of her love, rather, she loved because she was forgiven (vs 47-48). Her faith brought her to salvation, and her faith, in turn, caused her to respond in love. Her response to faith was action, not even words.

7. Where is the woman during this whole scene? What do you think she was feeling as this conversation was taking place?

8. Jesus spoke to her twice, in verses 48 and 50. He talked to her personally at that point. Why is this so significant?

9. Why didn't Jesus tell her to "go and sin no more" like He did to the woman in John 8:11?

10. Someone once said, "Simon had seen her, but only for **what** she was, not **who** she was. He had looked at her form but not her face. He had eyed her actions but not looked in her eyes." Jesus wanted the religious leaders to see her as He saw her. Beautifully forgiven. Do you feel that you have been the recipient of judgement from others because of "what" you are or "what" you've done rather than "who" you are? How did that make you feel?

11. How often do you look at others the same? Maybe define them by their past? Maybe judge them by their last "mistake"? Maybe classify them as "the one who ..." fill in the blank?

12. How does Jesus' response to her encourage and challenge you in how you look, respond, and love others?

13. What's the most significant lesson or truth you find in this beautiful story?

Fourth Day

What's your memory verse?

Today we'll look at another woman named "sinner" in the Gospel of John. I actually really like these women being unnamed because it reminds me of how I fit in their stories so well. I may not have been guilty of the same sins they had been committing, but I'm guilty of sin just the same!

1. Read John 8:1-11. Observe the facts and summarize the story in your own words. (She's often known as the "sinner" because of the act she was caught in as well as from verse 11.)

2. Before we go any further, please read the following verses and summarize them in your own words. (Can you guess why I'm asking you to read them?)
 - a. Romans 3:23
 - b. Romans 5:6-8
 - c. 1 John 1:10
 - d. Luke 19:10
 - e. Mark 2:17
 - f. 1 Timothy 1:12-15

3. Where did the story take place? What was Jesus doing?

In those days, authoritative teachers would come and sit down and teach while others gathered around to listen. Jesus obviously had people listening.

4. Suddenly the teaching was interrupted by the entrance of the Scribes and Pharisees, accompanied by a woman. What did they accuse her of?
5. What does our text tell us about the motives of the religious leaders? How were they using Scripture to help set the trap?

Adultery was a serious breach of the law. John Phillips wrote, "Perhaps the woman had been brought before the Sanhedrin first. The wily scribes and Pharisees at once saw in this case an opportunity to bait a trap for the upstart teacher. With callous lack of feeling they hauled the woman into the public arena of the temple court, pushed through the throngs now surrounding the seated teacher, and stood the woman in front of Jesus. To be thus publicly exposed, before the hostile eyes of the nation's religious leaders, before the curious eyes of the crowds, before the eyes of this holy teacher from Nazareth, who many thought was the Messiah, must have been excruciatingly painful."

6. So ... where was the man? (I believe it takes two to tango ...) Were these men interested in her partner? Why not?
7. Read Leviticus 20:10 and Deuteronomy 22:22. What was the usual method of execution under the Mosaic Law? So what do you think was the trap?

8. How do you think she was feeling at that moment?

9. According to verses 6-7, how did Jesus respond?

10. Many people try to guess what Jesus was writing. Any thoughts? Verse 9 tells us they all were convicted and left, one by one. What could He have written that would cause that response?

11. What did Jesus say in Matthew 7:5 that relates to this story?

12. Do you do this? Are you ever guilty of pointing the finger at others while you have a big ol' log sticking out of your eye?

13. When all her accusers left and she was alone with Jesus, what feelings and thoughts do you think she was experiencing?

We'll finish up this discussion tomorrow. How about closing in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to go logging in your own heart. 😊

Fifth Day

Write out your verse by memory.

1. Read our story again in John 8:1-11. Did Jesus look at the woman while she was being accused? Many think this was an example of His kindness. Thoughts? Did He look at the accusers at first either?

I love His answer, which is no answer. His answer didn't lower the standard of the Law, but He upheld the Law in such a way that He put it back on them. He also knew, as Phillips wrote, "That in the presence of divine holiness and omniscience not one of them would dare lay claim to being without sin." Some think Jesus wrote their names or their sins on the ground to convict them. I have no idea, but I like the significance of whatever "it" is being written in the dirt. God knows our sins, but He wants to pass His hand over the ground and blot them out! Isn't that amazing? But He also tells us to stop sinning.

2. What does she call Jesus in verse 11?
3. Does He forgive her? What else does He say?

Jesus offered her hope and a new life! He did not condone her sin; He forgave it, yet called her to a changed life. Jesus conquered sin and death! The Law would condemn her, but Jesus set her free! Notice that everyone else left the courtyard convicted, having a guilty conscience, while she left with joy in her heart!

4. Remember back when you asked Jesus to be your Lord and forgive you for all your sins. Did you experience the same joy and freedom she must have felt? How did you feel when Jesus saw "YOU"?
5. The part of His statement that many fail to remember are the simple words, "Go and sin no more." 1 Peter 1:16 tells us "You also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written 'Be holy for I am holy'. We are new creatures in Christ, behold all things are made new! We are called to "Follow in His footsteps" according to 1 John 2:6. Are you striving to "sin no more" as Jesus told our friend?

6. How is this story an example of Jesus' unlimited grace? How is your story an example as well?

7. Now I'd like to ask you why you think I had you look up all those verses on **Day Four**, question #2? How do they relate to our story? To you?

8. Do you see any similarities in our two stories this week?

9. Which of these stories speak to your heart the most? Why?

10. How can these women offer each one of us hope?

11. In our first story in Luke 7, Jesus told the woman to "go in peace." Someone once said, "Peace was her new home in which she was to live." Forgiveness of our sins brings us peace. It makes us right with God, as well as gives us the ability to live in a state of peace. Are you experiencing the peace that only comes through a right relationship with Christ? Think on that today. Is your soul peaceful as you walk with Him?

