



Sermon Growth Guide

June 29, 2025

A Pharisee and a Sinful Woman

Luke 7:18-23

Key Verse: Luke 7:22 - "Jesus said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'"

Big Idea: When we experience the forgiveness of sins through faith we can also experience the amazing peace that comes from reconciliation with our Father.

Foundations

Do you ever wonder what Jesus the face of Jesus actually looked like? Is it the face of the "European Jesus" that Tim projected on the big screen during his sermon? Or is it the face of Jesus laughing with his head thrown back made popular during the 70's and 80's? Or maybe we all now think that Jesus looked like, Jonathan Roumie, the actor who plays Jesus in The Chosen. In the words of Isaiah, the Messiah "had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him." What we know for sure is not the face of Jesus, but the very heart of Jesus expressed over and over again in human interactions.

The bereaved mother saw the love of Jesus as he reached out and touched the coffin bearing her dead son. John's disciples saw the "joy set before him" as Jesus described the many evidences of the Kingdom breaking into their world. In this week's passage, the 'sinful' woman, Simon the Pharisee, and the other dinner guests watch the face of Jesus as he extends compassion, forgiveness, authority and ultimately the promise of peace that comes only through reconciliation with his Abba Father.

(A similar story is recounted in Matt. 26:16-13, Mark 14:3-9, and John 12:1-8 but the Luke story is independent of these three.)

Understanding God's Word

Read Luke 7:36-50 together. What might have happened earlier that led this woman to boldly enter a Pharisee's home uninvited? What did she risk? What did the costly perfume mean to her, and could she even meet Jesus' gaze through her shame? Was Simon curious or truly seeking? Why still call Jesus "teacher" after doubting Him? What might he have seen in Jesus' face or heard in His voice? Did Simon or the other guests feel peace after this encounter?

Applying God's Word

Who do you relate to most in this story? Are you the grateful, uninvited guest? The questioning spiritual leader? Or just a guest drawn to the moment? Does this parable echo another one in Luke? Jesus told the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace." In these troubled times, where is your faith? Do you experience the peace Jesus offers (John 16:33)? How would you describe it?

Witnessing God's Word

How do we share the peace God gives us? In some churches, "Passing the Peace" is a practice that symbolizes unity, love, and reconciliation through Christ's presence. Think about how you can extend that peace in everyday life. As you drive, shop, make appointments, or talk with neighbors, let the peace of Christ shape your words and actions. Be His calming presence where tensions run high.