

# Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

## SSBC Luke Bible Study #24

*Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.*

Passage: Luke 7:36-50

Sermon Date: Mar 5, 2006

### Introduction:

to warm up to the topic of this week's Bible study, imagine the following two scenarios:

- a. What is your income? Okay, that's a rather personal question. But imagine this – you owe someone 100 times your weekly income (or two times your annual salary), and they suddenly call you up and say, “Don't worry about the loan, you are free and clear.” How would that feel? How would you respond? Would you thank them? Would you tell people about what happened?
- b. Now let's say you buy a refrigerator and put it on your Sears card. Again, imagine the debt is suddenly forgiven. That too would be nice, but perhaps not as shocking as the first instance. How would you respond in this case?

Here's the punch-line: Which of the above is more like the way one should feel when learning that his/her sins are forgiven? Ponder this. Pray about it. Then turn the page and begin to explore Luke 7:36-50.

*This bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to [www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/](http://www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/)*

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**Bible Study:**

1. Read this week's bible passage and use the chart below to make observations and jot down any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p><sup>36</sup> Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. <sup>37</sup> When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, <sup>38</sup> and 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.</p> <p><sup>39</sup> 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."</p> <p><sup>40</sup> Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."</p> <p>"Tell me, teacher," he said.</p> <p><sup>41</sup> "Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii,<sup>a</sup> and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup> Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"</p> <p>a (41) A denarius was a coin worth about a day's wages.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p><sup>43</sup> Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled."</p> <p>"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.</p> <p><sup>44</sup> 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. <sup>45</sup> You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. <sup>46</sup> You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. <sup>47</sup> Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."</p> <p><sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."</p> <p><sup>49</sup> The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"</p> <p><sup>50</sup> Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

<b>Observation</b> What does it say?	<b>Interpretation</b> What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

<b>Application</b> How do I apply what it means?

**Check It Out:**

4. In studying the Bible it is important to consider the customs, politics, geography, and other realities of the day in order to understand what is going on and its meaning and significance. There are several customs we encounter in this passage which, as we understand them, will help us see the meaning of the passage as a whole. Use a study Bible or Bible encyclopedia to research the following customs.

a. What was the custom in Bible times for washing a guest's feet? Why was this a practical necessity? Who was typically given this task?

*Tip: The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (ISBE) (<http://www.studylight.org/enc/isb/>) is a good resource – Search for “foot” using the index or search tool to find a helpful article.*

b. What was the custom for greeting someone, and particularly for greeting someone with a kiss? (Rom 16:16, 1 Cor 16:20, 1 Pet 5:14)

*Tip: Search ISBE for “kiss” and “greeting”.*

c. What were some customs/reasons for putting oil on someone's head? (Ex 29:7, 1 Sam 10:1, 16:13, 1 Kgs 1:39, Mark 6:13, Jas 5:14)

d. Who were the Pharisees and how did they see themselves? How did Jesus see them? *Research “Pharisees”; See Mt 15:1-9, 23:23-36*

5. What resource(s) do you have or did you find that were most helpful in exploring the topics in question #4?

*Compare notes with others to expand your awareness of resources, and pick a few to get access to for future study needs.*

6. As judged by Jesus according to the customs of his day, in Luke 7:36-50 what did the “sinful woman” and Simon the Pharisee do (or not do) to extend customary courtesies to Jesus?

	“Sinful” Woman	Simon the Pharisee
Foot washing or equivalent?		
Kiss or equivalent?		
Anointing or equivalent?		

7. At first glance, this passage can appear to be about the *amount* of one's sin. But consider it instead in light of one's *awareness* of one's own sin.

a. To what extent was the woman aware of her sinful state? And where does she stand in God's eyes at the end of this passage?

b. To what extent was Simon aware of his sinful state? And where does he seem to stand in God's eyes at the end of this passage?

c. To what extent are you aware of your own sinfulness? Where do you think you stand in God's eyes these days? How do you know?

d. According to the Bible, what must we do in order to be forgiven? (consider 2 Chron 7:14, Acts 2:38, 1 John 1:9)

8. What concept, insight, or application was most significant to you from this study?