

TURNING THE TABLES, PART 3
THE DINNER AT SIMON THE PHARISEE'S HOUSE
Luke 7:36-50

Sinners welcome Jesus because Jesus welcomes sinners.

The CONTEXT of This Encounter—Isolation vs. Engagement

- Men like Simon would have avoided contact with people they considered impure lest they become “infected.”
- The uninvited guest is “a woman of the city” who had lived a sinful life (i.e., she was a prostitute).
- Letting your hair down was reserved for the bedroom; for women to do it in public was grounds for divorce.
- Everything about this woman looks wrong—her presence and actions at the event seem highly inappropriate.
- Unlike others in the room, Jesus reinterprets what she does as a loving act rather than an erotic act.
- How would *you* have reacted if you had seen a known promiscuous woman kissing the feet of Jesus?
- “When you discover that someone in your church has sinned, your own heart will be exposed.” (Tim Chester)

The CONTRASTS in This Encounter—Analysis vs. Adoration

There is contrast in the *attitude* they give Jesus:

- Those who analyze Jesus come to him in a cold, clinical, and detached way.
- Those who adore Jesus come to him in a warm, relational, and personal way.

There is contrast in the *authority* they give Jesus:

- Those who analyze Jesus try to control the terms of the encounter with him.
- Those who adore Jesus surrender the terms of the encounter with him.

There is contrast in the *affection* they give Jesus:

- Those who analyze Jesus treat him as any other guest.
- Those who adore Jesus treat him as the preeminent guest.

There is contrast in the *appreciation* they give Jesus:

- Those who analyze Jesus see themselves as spiritually adequate.
- Those who adore Jesus see themselves as spiritually needy.

The CONCLUSION of This Encounter— Stagnation vs. Salvation

Those who analyze Jesus . . .

- . . . get a lesson about *true humanity*—“Look at this woman.”
- . . . get a lesson about *true humility*—“You may owe less than others, but you still can’t pay.”
- . . . get a lesson about *true holiness*—“Godly people gently restore the fallen.”

Those who adore Jesus . . .

- . . . get *the love they’ve always sought*, despite their misguided quest for it.
- . . . get *the assurance of salvation*, despite the many sins they have committed.
- . . . get *the commission to step out into peace*, with a new power for life.