

The Gospels Series: Interviewing Jesus

Study Guide: “Interviewing Jesus or Worshiping Him?” (Luke 7:36-50)

- **Key Context**
 - Jesus is invited to dinner at the home of **Simon the Pharisee**.
 - A woman known for her sinful life (likely a prostitute) crashes the dinner, weeps at Jesus’ feet, washes them with her tears, wipes them with her hair, and pours out expensive perfume from an alabaster jar.
 - Simon internally judges both the woman and Jesus.
- **Core Scripture Luke 7:36-50 (NIV)** – Read the full passage for the story. Key verses:
 - Luke 7:47 – “Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”
 - Luke 7:50 – “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Supporting Verses:

- Psalm 51:17 (broken and contrite heart)
- Romans 3:23 & 6:23 (all have sinned; wages of sin is death)
- Ephesians 2:8-9 (saved by grace, not works)
- **Main Points**
 - **Two Debtors, One Reality:** Both the woman and Simon owed a debt of sin they could never repay. The difference wasn’t the size of the debt, but the awareness of it and response to forgiveness.
 - **Extravagant Worship vs. Detached Evaluation:** The woman gave everything in humble, costly worship. Simon offered minimal hospitality and judged from a distance.
 - **Interviewing Jesus or Surrendering to Him?:** Simon was intellectually curious and evaluating whether Jesus measured up. The woman was all-in, broken, and fully committed.
 - **Love Flows from Forgiveness:** Great awareness of forgiveness produces great love and devotion.
- **Personal Application**
 - We all carry a debt we cannot pay.
 - True Christianity is marked by humble dependence and extravagant love, not self-righteous evaluation.
 - Jesus invites total commitment — not a job interview.

Quotable Quotes

- “There is a danger in interviewing a cliff that you want to jump off of.” (on half-hearted commitment)
- “Either Jesus is who He says He is... or He is a fraud and a lunatic.”

- “We are not invited to interview Him as Lord and Savior. We are invited to step into full commitment.”
- “Having our grasp on the reality of sin... is not something that has to come into a pretty bucket.”
- “If you cannot come to a place of recognizing that you are utterly dependent on God’s grace... you will never get the clipboard out of your hand.”

Questions for Further Thought

1. In what ways have you been more like Simon (evaluating/interviewing Jesus) versus the woman (extravagant surrender and worship)?
2. What “alabaster jar” (something costly or personal) might God be asking you to break open in worship and surrender right now?
3. How does a deeper awareness of your own forgiveness change the way you love and worship Jesus?