

LABELS

Luke 7:36

Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him, and He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.

Luke 7:37

And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume,

Luke 7:38

and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping,
she began to wet His feet with her tears, and
kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and
kissing His feet and anointing them with the
perfume.

Luke 7:39

Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner."

Who told you 'they' were that?

Labels reduce people

Labels make people simple enough
to dismiss

1. Labels contain some truth.

Biblical language does not require us
to pretend destructive behavior
isn't destructive

Biblical discernment identifies **behavior** so I can respond wisely. Sinful labeling reduces the **person** to the behavior so I can dismiss them entirely.

2. Labels give us perspective and permission

Labels don't merely change how I see you.
They change how I believe I'm allowed to treat
you.

Be careful of any label that makes
disobedience feel justified

3. Labels feed our pride

I need you and 'others' to be the
problem because then...
I'm not!

4. Labels blind us to the person
behind the label

Luke 7:44

Turning toward the woman, He said to Simon,
"Do you see this woman?"

Luke 7:47

"For this reason I say to you, **her sins, which are many,** have been forgiven, for she loved much;
but he who is forgiven little, loves little."

Grace can change her story!

Jesus never asks us to deny what's true about someone. He does ask us to see **something more** than what's wrong with them.