



ShalomAZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"The King Who Sees Every Heart"

Rabbi Cosmo Panzetta

Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts: Luke 7:36-50; Psalm 51:16-17; Rev. 3:17-20; Eph. 5:1

Yeshua's encounter in Luke 7:36-50 is not a random dinner scene — it is a revelation of His heart. In this story, we see two people who couldn't be more different: a Pharisee named Simon, respected and religious, and a woman labeled a "sinner of the city," likely a prostitute. One is confident in his spiritual standing; the other is painfully aware of her brokenness. Both, however, are in debt beyond what they can repay. And the King who sees every heart meets each one exactly where they are.

What's stunning is how Yeshua deals with them. To Simon, He offers a parable that lovingly dismantles his blind spots. To the woman, He offers silent acceptance and public defense as she pours out tear-soaked worship. His tone is different for each, but His motivation is the same — love. His goal in both cases is restoration.

1. HE SEES THE RELIGIOUS HEART THAT NEEDS REDIRECTION (Luke 7:36-38)

Yeshua does not dismiss the religious person who is wayward in heart. Simon the Pharisee invited Him to dinner, and Yeshua accepted. This in itself is a statement of grace. Yeshua did not only dine with tax collectors and prostitutes; He also reclined at the table of the religious elite. Simon may not have realized his own need, but Yeshua still came.

Simon's motives are not presented as hostile. Unlike other recorded encounters where Pharisees plotted to trap Him, here Luke offers no such indication. Simon likely wanted to see for himself the One who healed the sick, raised the dead, and preached with authority. Yeshua's willingness to enter his home shows His desire to reach not only the obviously broken but also the subtly blind.

Challenge: Consider whether I've mistaken familiarity with God's Word for fullness of heart. Am I willing to let Yeshua redirect me if my religious practice has drifted from His heart?

2. HE SEES THE BROKEN HEART THAT NEEDS RESTORATION (Luke 7:38-39)

The woman's actions were shocking in her culture: weeping at Yeshua's feet, washing them with her hair, kissing them, and anointing them with perfume. This was no calculated move — it was raw, wordless worship born of desperation and hope. She knew her need, and she knew enough about Yeshua to believe He would receive her.

Yeshua is not embarrassed by her expression, even though others would have deemed it improper. He receives her tears as a pure offering, hearing in them her heartfelt, but unspoken repentance. Her worship broke the social rules, but it was entirely in tune with the heart of God. In her, we see the truth of Psalm 51:17: *"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit. A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise."*

Challenge: When was the last time I poured out my heart to Yeshua without worrying how it looked to others? Am I willing to bring Him my most vulnerable worship?

3. HE LOVES US ENOUGH TO REVEAL OUR BLIND SPOTS (Luke 7:39-43)

Simon's internal reaction revealed a distorted view of both prophets and sinners. In his mind, a prophet should recoil from a sinner, not receive her worship. But Simon's definition of "prophet"

and “holiness” was too small. He thought Yeshua’s acceptance of her proved He was not from God, but in truth it proved the opposite.

Yeshua’s parable of the two debtors exposed Simon’s blind spot: both men in the story owed a debt they could not repay, though one owed more. Likewise, both Simon and the woman were spiritually bankrupt before God, but Simon could not see his need because he was grading himself against others. Yeshua’s story was not to shame him but to open his eyes so he could see what God sees.

Challenge: Do I measure my righteousness by comparing myself to others? Ask the Lord to reveal the blind spots that keep me from truly seeing as He sees.

4. He Loves Us Too Much to Let the Wound Go Untreated (Luke 7:44–50)

Yeshua’s words to Simon may have felt harsh, but they were surgical — meant to cut away self-righteousness and bring healing. He pointed out Simon’s lack of basic hospitality, contrasting it with the woman’s extravagant devotion. By doing so, He shifted the focus from her shortcomings to his own.

To the woman, Yeshua gave assurance: *“Your sins have been forgiven... Your faith has saved you. Go in shalom.”* To Simon, the unspoken invitation was the same — forgiveness was available. But first, he had to admit his need. This is the heart of Revelation 3:19: *“Those whom I love, I rebuke and discipline. Therefore, be zealous and repent.”* His rebuke is never to condemn but to restore.

Challenge: When Yeshua applies the truth like a scalpel, do I resist, or do I trust His hands to heal me?

CONCLUSION

The King who sees every heart loves both the obviously broken and the subtly blind. He knows the language each heart needs — whether gentle invitation or loving rebuke. His goal is always the same: to bring us into the fullness of His love and the freedom of His forgiveness. Whether you feel like the woman who is “a sinner of the city” or the Pharisee who thinks he’s got things together, you have a debt you cannot repay — and He has grace you cannot exhaust. The question is whether you will let Him meet you where you are, in the way He knows you need most.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How does Yeshua’s willingness to dine with Simon challenge our assumptions about who He pursues?
2. Why do you think the woman was willing to risk public shame to reach Yeshua?
3. What are some modern “blind spots” that can distort how we see others — or ourselves — spiritually?
4. How can we learn to receive Yeshua’s rebuke as an act of love rather than rejection?
5. Which character in this passage do you identify with most right now — and why?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Avinu Malkenu, Our Father, Our King, You are the King who sees every heart. Thank You for loving us enough to meet us exactly where we are. Thank You for receiving our broken worship and for speaking truth that reveals our blind spots. Help us to welcome both Your gentle words and Your loving rebuke. Keep us from self-righteousness, and give us the humility to admit our need. May we live in the joy of Your forgiveness and walk in the shalom only You can give.

In Yeshua’s name, amen.