

Deep Practice Discipleship Guide

Luke 7:36–50 — “Do You See This Woman?”

OPENING REFLECTION (Share)

Begin with your established rhythm.

After opening prayer, invite each person to briefly share:

- How did you do this past week with the discipleship practice you have been working on?

Keep this short but honest. Discipleship grows in the light.

LEARN

Big Idea

True holiness sees clearly, moves toward sinners in compassion, and believes in what grace can make possible.

SERMON OUTLINE (Fuller Version for Teaching)

Luke 7:36–50

Compassion: Seeing as Jesus Sees

Introduction

A dinner table.

A respected Pharisee.

A woman known only by her sin.

And one piercing question:

“Do you see this woman?”

Point 1

True holiness moves toward the sinner in order to restore, not away in order to protect itself.

- Simon assumes holiness requires distance.

- Jesus proves He knows her sin — and does not withdraw.
 - Divine holiness is not fragile; it is redemptive.
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Point 2

Experienced forgiveness reorders the heart and produces transformed love.

- Simon saw a sinful woman; Jesus saw a room full of debtors.
 - Both owed. Neither could pay.
 - Forgiveness produces love, gratitude, and worship.
 - Simon misunderstood not only holiness, but grace.
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“Do You See This Woman?”

- Do you see a sinner — or a person?
 - **Darrell Bock writes:** “It is not what the sinner is that Jesus sees, but what the sinner could be through God’s love. It is Jesus’ awareness of how God can transform people that makes him, rather than dwell on the past, look forward to what God can make of them.”
 - Jesus sees not only what she has been, but what she can become through God’s transforming love.
 - Forgiveness restores identity and sends her out in peace.
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Point 3

We see people and move toward them in compassion so that they might experience the forgiveness and transforming power of the gospel.

- Jesus sees her.
- Jesus moves toward her.
- Jesus forgives her.
- We cannot forgive sin, but we can introduce people to the One who can.

Hands

Change the story you tell yourself when you first see someone's sin.

- Do you define people by their past — or by what grace could make of them?
- Forgiven people become compassionate people.
- As we come to the table, we remember: we were debtors who could not pay.
- Forgiven hands become compassionate hands.

DISCUSS (Bloom's Taxonomy Progression)

Remember

- What assumptions did Simon make about holiness?
- What does Jesus' question "Do you see this woman?" reveal?

Understand

- Why does Jesus connect forgiveness and love?
- What is the difference between fragile holiness and redemptive holiness?

Apply

- Think of someone you instinctively label. What story do you tell about them?
- Where in your life do you tend to distance instead of move toward?

Analyze

- How can someone take sin seriously but still act with compassion?
- What does this passage expose about the culture of many churches?

Evaluate

- Is your love proportionate to your awareness of forgiveness?

- What evidence in your life shows that grace has reordered your heart?

Create

- What would it look like for our church to become a place where holiness and compassion visibly coexist?
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STORYING EXERCISE

Related Story: Luke 19:1–10 (Zacchaeus)

1. Read the passage slowly.
2. Close Bibles.
3. Retell the story together from memory.

Then discuss:

- How did others see Zacchaeus?
- How did Jesus see him?
- What changed in Zacchaeus after encountering grace?
- What parallels do you see between Zacchaeus and the woman in Luke 7?

Notice the pattern:

Seen → Approached → Restored → Transformed.

The gospel is not theory. It is encounter.

LIVE (Deep Practice for the Week)

Weekly Practice: Rewriting the Internal Story

When you encounter someone's failure this week:

1. Pause.
2. Notice the first narrative forming in your mind.
3. Replace it intentionally with:
 - "God is not finished with them."
 - "Grace could work here."

- “What might Christ make of this person?”

Compassion begins in the story you tell yourself.

Simon told a story about contamination.

Jesus told a story about canceled debt.

Written Commitment (5–7 minutes)

Have each participant write:

- One practice they will engage in this week so that they might live more like Jesus.
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Closing Encouragement

You come to the table as a debtor who could not pay.

That awareness is not meant to shame you.

It is meant to free you.

When forgiveness becomes vivid,

love becomes natural.

Compassion becomes reflex.

Holiness becomes redemptive rather than defensive.

The church becomes a room where no one is reduced to their worst chapter.

And forgiven hands

become compassionate hands.

This is not soft religion.

It is resurrection vision applied at table level.