

Group/Individual Study

Series: Questions Jesus Asked: "Do you see this woman?"

Passages: Luke 7:36-50, Matt 9:35-38

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 10/22

1. Read Luke 7:36-50. Simon the Pharisee *appeared to be* extending hospitality to Jesus by having him into his home for a meal. What signs do you see in this passage that he was actually giving Jesus a cool and half-hearted welcome? Contrast Simon's attitude towards Jesus with the woman's attitude.
2. Simon saw a label when he saw the woman--and he felt no compassion towards her. What are the labels he likely saw? What do you think Jesus saw in this woman that Simon didn't? Have you ever had to radically adjust your view of a person or of a group once you got to know them and their "backstory"?
3. Read Matthew 9:35-38. Jesus looked at people struggling through life and felt the deepest kind of compassion. The original word for "compassion" is very strong. It literally means "his insides shook." When has God made your "insides shake" with compassion for people that--apart from God--might be easy to judge or dismiss?
4. When have you experienced being "seen" and loved in the way Jesus loved this woman? How have you experienced this from God? When have you experienced it from another person? How did it affect you?
5. What do you think was in the heart of this woman who was washing and kissing Jesus' feet? Why do you think a bigger awareness of God's love and forgiveness triggers deeper loving response in us? What helps you preserve this awe about God's love and grace to you?
6. Is there an individual or a group that you think God may be calling you to see with greater compassion rather than with a negative label? How can you do the "heart work" to make that change? How can God help you in that process?