



beyond sunday

not a fan — 10.5.25

Choose Intimacy — Rachel Taylor

Opening

Read Luke 7:36–50 aloud together.

1. What stands out to you most in this story?
2. What do you notice about the Pharisee, the woman, or Jesus?

Observation & Context

3. In verse 39, Simon (the Pharisee) questions whether Jesus is really a prophet. What does this reveal about Simon's assumptions about God and about people?
4. In verses 44–46, Jesus compares Simon's lack of hospitality with the woman's extravagant welcome. What contrasts do you see here?

Interpretation

5. Why do you think Luke withholds the Pharisee's name until verse 40 but never gives the woman's name at all? What might this tell us about intimacy and invitation with Jesus?

6. Jesus says in verse 47, "Whoever has been forgiven little loves little." How do you understand this? Do you think Jesus is shaming Simon—or inviting him? Why?
7. What does this story show us about Jesus' coronation as King? How does his kingship look different than what people might expect?

Personal Reflection

8. Who do you identify with more in this story, Simon or the woman? Do you see a little of both in yourself? How so?
9. Jesus turns Simon's unspoken thoughts into a personal question: "Simon, I have something to tell you." If Jesus spoke your name right now and said, "I have something to tell you," what might he be addressing?
10. The woman risked vulnerability and found intimacy, dignity, and peace with Jesus. What keeps you (personally) "in the bushes" or hiding? What helps you step out toward Jesus?

Practice

11. Confession in this story leads to assurance: Jesus tells the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." How do you usually practice confession? Do you also practice assurance?

- 12.** What's one way your group could begin practicing confession and assurance together (as Pastor Rachel suggested in the sermon), maybe monthly or quarterly?
- 13.** How can remembering that we are "clothed with Christ" (Galatians 3:27) change how we approach vulnerability with God and with others this week?

Closing

Pray together, naming both things you're thankful for and things you need forgiveness for. End by speaking Jesus' words of assurance from verse 50 over one another: "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."