

Dinner with Jesus 2
"The Table of Forgiveness"
Luke 7:36–50

2026 Vision: "Straining to Love: Sharing the Table of Christ"

Mission: "Every Chair Filled, Every Heart Engaged"

Introduction: In our Scripture today, Jesus is dining at the home of a religious leader when an unexpected guest *crashes* the dinner. The unfolding scene is both shocking and beautiful. It teaches us that Jesus' table is a place of forgiveness and restoration for those who humbly seek Him. But it also challenges us: *As we are reminded of our church vision for 2026* "Straining to love, that "Love is our action, with a mission of "Every Chair Filled, Every Heart Engaged (and some of them won't be exactly like us).

I. The sinner's worship – The uninvited guest (Luke 7:36–38)

A. Jesus is invited to a Pharisee's home for a meal (v.36).

1. A "sinful woman" enters uninvited (likely a prostitute), bringing an alabaster jar of perfume (v.37).
2. She weeps, washes Jesus' feet with her tears, wipes them with her hair, kisses them, and anoints them with perfume (v.38).

Psalms 51:17 – "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."

B. Her extravagant love reflects repentance and gratitude.

John Phillips suggests she came "thirsty from guilt and regret... and drank deeply of grace."

II. The self-righteous whispers – The host's judgment (Luke 7:39–43)

A. Simon doubts Jesus' prophetic credentials because He allows a sinner to touch Him (v.39).

B. Jesus tells a parable of two debtors—one owing 500 denarii, one 50. Both are forgiven (vv.41–43).

Romans 3:23 – "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

James 4:6 – "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

Jerry Vines' "Banker Parable" – Like debtors to a bank, whether we owe little or much, we all need grace.

III. The Savior's welcome – Jesus' response of grace (Luke 7:44–50)

A. Jesus contrasts Simon's cold hospitality with the woman's loving actions (vv.44–46).

1. "Her many sins have been forgiven; that's why she loved much" (v.47).
2. *Luke 5:31–32* – Jesus came to call sinners, not the righteous.
3. *1 John 1:9* – "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us."

B. Jesus declares, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace" (v.50).

Tony Campolo's 3:30am birthday party for a prostitute – "*I belong to a church that throws birthday parties for prostitutes.*"

Questions for us:

- Are we worshiping like the woman or judging like Simon?
 - Are we letting God's forgiveness fuel our love?
 - Will we be a church that extends grace to all who seek Jesus?
- 1 John 4:19* – "We love because He first loved us."

Conclusion: We are all debtors to grace. Let's be a church that celebrates every sinner who comes to the Table of Forgiveness.

Closing Thought:

Let's strain to love, embodying Christ's heart so that every chair is filled and every heart engaged in His redeeming grace.