



Outsiders

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Inside Pictures with Outsiders

Week of September 26, 2021

Intro Discussion Question(s):

- *What have you learned most in your study of God's Word this week?*
- *What is an event or a memory that you are grateful to have a picture to remember it by?*

Read Bible Study Summary:

A picture speaks a thousand words. That would certainly be true if we had pictures of the event/meal when Jesus was anointed by a sinful woman at the home of a Pharisee named Simon. Simon was an insider with the religious establishment of his day, but was an outsider when it came to a personal relationship with God through Jesus. The sinful woman, on the other hand, was an outsider when it came to the religious establishment, but was forgiven by Jesus and was now an insider in God's family! As we read this story and see the snapshots of the event, we continue to learn about Jesus' heart for outsiders.

Main Scripture

- *Read Luke 7:36-50*

What can we learn about Jesus' encounter with Simon and the sinful woman?

1. Jesus Forgives the Biggest Sinners

- The uninvited dinner guest in our story was known as a sinner in the eyes of her community (religious and secular). Many scholars have concluded this woman had been a prostitute from the comments Simon the Pharisee made about her.
- Jesus said, "From the time I came in" which implies that the woman had followed Jesus into the house. Some scholars believe this may have been a continuation of an interaction that Jesus had with her outside the home. Regardless, her boldness to enter a Pharisee's home knowing she was an outsider and knowing the kind of reception she would receive shows something of her motivation. She didn't care. No matter her sin or what others thought, she had faith that Jesus was the only one who could do something about it. She might still be on the outside of the religious institution of her day, but Jesus declared that she was no longer an outsider when it came to knowing God and being known by God.

- **Read 1 Timothy 1:12-16** - 13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. 14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.
- **Ask Question**
 - The woman's reputation preceded her. How do you think a bad reputation can keep someone from seeking Jesus?
 - In what ways does your testimony resonate with Paul's in which he considered himself the chief of sinners?
 - Think about your faith conversations with others. Share an example of how you have communicated to others God's mercy and patience with you despite your sin?

2. The Self-Righteous Are Big Sinners Too

- There are always those who are willing to stand in judgement of others. Simon had judged the woman to be an unclean sinner. He only knew of her former way of life and her reputation. He couldn't see her repentant heart nor did he understand the heart of Jesus for people just like her. He mulled over the matter and made three conclusions:
 - If Jesus were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman was anointing his feet
 - If he knew what kind of a woman she was, he would not let her do it
 - Since he does let her anoint his feet, he is no prophet and should not be acknowledged as such¹
- Jesus shared his parable and put Simon on the spot with a question that when answered correctly put him under the same condemnation as the woman. Simon's moral pride disables him from seeing that he is a hopeless debtor just like the woman who is the object of his judgement.
- **Read Galatians 6:1-4** Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. 2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. 3 If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. 4 Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else
- **Ask Question(s)**
 - If you were there and could have pulled Simon off to the side, what would you say to him knowing what is true about the gospel? What would be the best way to share it with him (the tone) given his self-righteousness?
 - We have all probably had moments in which we have said in thought or words, "there is no hope for that person. They are too far gone." How does Jesus' heart and ministry for the "biggest sinners" challenge your evangelism for those hardest to reach (the self-righteous too)?

¹Longman and Garland, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol. 10 (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007), 151.

Evangelism Preparation

A. Share the Gospel from Scripture (The Romans Road)

- Each week in this series, have someone practice sharing the gospel using these five Scriptures. Use your Bible. It may not be easy determining what to say transitioning between the Scriptures, but that is okay. Perhaps other group members can help.

Romans		
3:23	We Are All Sinners	For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
6:23	Consequence of Sin	For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord
5:8	God Loves Sinners	But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
10:9	You Can Be Saved	If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved
10:13	God's Promise	Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

B. Share the Gospel Using Your Testimony

- Have someone in the group practice sharing their story of how Christ saved them and the abundant life they now have in him. They can use the following categories to help guide their conversation:
 - My life before Christ....
 - I accepted Christ....
 - My life with Christ....

Closing

- **Ask Question** - *What is the greatest challenge you are facing right now? Is there some way our group can help you specifically?*
- Pray together over those requests.