

A painting of a woman in profile, looking down. The style is expressive and somewhat somber, with warm, earthy tones. A bright, glowing light source is visible on the left side, casting a soft glow on the woman's face and hair. The background is dark and textured, suggesting a deep, contemplative mood.

WHO IS JESUS
TO YOU?

FEWER FENCES, BIGGER TABLES

A group of diverse people are seated around a long wooden table outdoors, enjoying a meal. The table is set with plates of food, glasses of wine, and a vase of flowers. The background shows a lush green landscape with trees. The overall atmosphere is warm and social.

**When you have more
than you need, build
a longer table, not
a higher fence**

THE MOST VALUABLE PERSON



GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?



WHAT KIND OF WOMAN?!?

PHARISEES FEED OFF THE SHAME OF SINNERS:

- Pharisees play the comparison game: If she's dirty, then that must mean I'm clean
- Pharisees believe that their own righteousness and effort will save them.
- Pharisees don't want people who are stuck in sin to be freed.
- Pharisees believe that if someone can become righteous through forgiveness, without effort on their part, it cheapens the nature of righteousness.



“The greatest enemy to human souls is the self-righteous spirit which makes men look to themselves for salvation”

- Charles Spurgeon -

FORGIVENESS

head, ...
...fume on my feet. 47 There-
...e, I tell you, her many sins
...ve been forgiven—for she
...ved much. But he who has
...een forgiven little loves little."
48 Then Jesus said to her,
"Your sins are forgiven." Mt 9:2
49 The other guests began to
say among themselves, "Who is
this who even forgives sins?"
50 Jesus said to the woman,
"Your faith has saved you; go in
peace." Mt 9:22
... of the Sower

***BELOVED, YOU MUST KNOW THE
BITTERNESS OF SIN BEFORE
YOU CAN KNOW THE BLESSEDNESS
OF FORGIVENESS!***

Spurgeon



TAKE IT HOME:

1) In our approach to Jesus, we need to be less like Simon and more like the prostitute:

- Is Jesus your Saviour & Lord or is He a tool to be used for your advantage?
- “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”
- In our pride and self-righteousness, God Himself will oppose us.
- But in our admission of need and brokenness we receive grace.

2) In our approach to the lost, we need to be less like Simon and more like Jesus.

- Sometimes Christians are too much like the Pharisees in this passage.
- The world needs Christians who hold out compassion and grace for the worst sinners that the world can produce.
- We need to be the kind of people that the lost and broken feel safe keeping company with.
- Not because we excuse and dismiss sin, but because we believe that Jesus can bring freedom from the same sins that we have been forgiven of.