

## JESUS IN SIMON'S HOUSE – 11 FEBRUARY 2023

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Two unique stories this week that are very similar.

Luke 7:36-50 tells the story of Jesus in Simon the Pharisee's house, where an unnamed sinner washes Jesus's feet.

In Mark 14:3-9 Jesus is in Simon the Leper's house, and an unnamed woman anoints Jesus's head. Matthew 26:6-13 and John 12:1-8 also tell this story.

We/you discussed these stories in October 2021. The Mark/Matthew/John narrative is quite different to the one in Luke. Besides basic facts—compare the description of the woman, the time, the place, what the woman does, who reacts—the theology is very different between Luke and the other gospels. Luke's story is about hospitality.

### **The context**

The whole of Luke 7:1-8:3 is a single section. Read it and consider what themes Luke is discussing in this section of his gospel.

### **Analysing the story**

Luke's narrative consists of **four scenes**. I'd suggest you try to discover them yourself; you can compare your answer to mine at bottom of the page.<sup>1</sup>

There are also **four characters** in the story, can you identify them? Again, see the bottom of the page.<sup>2</sup>

For each scene try to figure out the following:

- What is each character doing in the scene?
  - What does each character think/say about the other characters in the scene?
- Here's an example (I might well be wrong!):

1<sup>st</sup> scene:

**Simon** invites Jesus to a meal.

Thinks **Jesus** is not the prophet he imagined he was;

thinks **the woman** is a sinner;

thinks that **the other guests** must feel lucky to be invited by him!

(The text might be silent—feel free to use your imagination like I did!)

### **Some questions to ponder**

- What acts of hospitality does Jesus say Simon didn't show?
- How do these reflect the customs from other passages we have studied?
- What hospitality customs are unmentioned? Any idea why they are missing?
- Gender plays a big role here. Watch this 5-min video I recorded for my classes at Newbold (<https://youtu.be/Kc31qk2bg1c>). Try to answer the final question of the video to this text: 'Apply the scale of gender to this story'.
- Reflect on Jesus's final words. What faith is he talking about?

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<sup>1</sup> Scene 1: 36-39, scene 2: 40-43, scene 3: 44-47, scene 4: 48-50

<sup>2</sup> Simon, Jesus, the woman, and the other guests.