

Luke 7:36-50; Acts 4:8 and 13

ice breaker

Share about a time when you made a significant sacrifice for someone you loved. What motivated you to do it?

overview

- The sermon emphasised loving Jesus deeply and being unashamed of the gospel, drawing from the story of the sinful woman in Luke 7:36-50.
- Ps Seiya challenged us to examine our love for Jesus and our willingness to unashamedly sacrifice for Him.
- When we grasp how much we've been forgiven, our love for Jesus grows, as does our boldness in sharing our faith.

discussion

- 1** How does recognising both the sins God forgives, and the sins He protects us from, reshape our understanding of His grace?
- 2** What is your personal *alabaster jar*? Something of great value that the Lord is inviting you to sacrifice out of love for Him.
- 3** By facing our weakness and shame, how can loving Jesus sacrificially help us grow as His disciples?

go deeper

This powerful message challenges us to examine the depth of our love for Jesus through the lens of sacrifice and gratitude. At the heart of Luke 7:36-50, the sinful woman breaks an alabaster jar of expensive perfume to anoint Jesus' feet with her tears, hair, and fragrant oil. This wasn't just a religious gesture, it was her life savings, her security, her everything - poured out in extravagant worship.

The contrast between her radical devotion and Simon the Pharisee's hospitality (or lack thereof) reveals a profound truth: we can love the Lord and others more deeply when we grasp how much we've been forgiven. We're invited to move beyond comfortable Christianity into a faith that costs us something. This resonates further when we consider how God has protected us from countless debts we never had to pay.

Transformation occurs when we truly acknowledge the mess and darkness of our own humanity while understanding that Jesus is not ashamed of us. This is where bold, unashamed proclamation of the gospel is born - not from religious duty but from overwhelming gratitude.

activation

Take turns finishing these sentences aloud as a group:

A small sacrifice I could make out of love for Jesus is...

I hold back from living boldly for Jesus because...

If I want others to see Jesus in me, I need to...

application

Choose one of the following to put into practice for a challenge this week.

Option 1: Face Your Shame

- Spend 15 minutes in daily prayer this week, asking the Lord to reveal areas of weakness, sin or shame you've been avoiding.
- Journal about what God shows you and how His love meets you in that place. Be grounded in scriptures that declare the truth of your freedom and identity in Him.

Option 2: Share Your Faith

- Identify someone in your life who doesn't know Jesus.
- Pray for them daily and look for one opportunity this week to share something about your faith.

prayer points

For courage and boldness to be unashamed of the gospel, filled and empowered by Holy Spirit.

For a deeper understanding of God's love, that we would be free from shame.

Pray for Japan, for Australia and the nations.

final thought

"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished, and they took note that these men had been with Jesus." **Acts 4:13**

May people look at our lives and know that we have been with Jesus!

CG Leader Resource

Hi Connect Group Leader!

This topic confronts the shame that may stop us from coming boldly and wholly before the Lord. With wisdom, lead your group members to pray that the Lord would examine their hearts, highlighting any areas of shame that the Lord wants laid bare before Him, that we might love Him with our whole selves and find that we are loved and healed.

Use from the Notes above or this Resource, that which you feel works best for your group.

Prayer/praise report from your group? Anything else you think we should know?
[Click here](#) to pass it onto our Pastoral Team so we can address it in our weekly meet.

additional questions

1. What evidence in your daily life would cause others to recognise that you have been with Jesus (Acts 4:13)?
2. How can we avoid the trap of knowing Jesus intellectually without loving Him deeply?
3. How does love for Jesus shape the way we make and grow disciples?
4. What practical step could you take this week to live more boldly and unashamedly in your faith?

quiet reflection exercise

Invite the group to contemplate the end of this sentence. First, quietly in prayer or journaling, then aloud together:

"If I truly grasped how deeply Jesus loves me, my life would be transformed to look..."

for next week...

Come prepared to share one of the following:

- One way you practiced being unashamed of the gospel this week
- Any areas the Lord is inviting you to greater levels of freedom from shame