

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further International Bible Lessons

Luke 7:36-50

Sunday, April 10, 2016

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What are some things that Jesus did and said in the house of Simon the Pharisee that showed Jesus was a prophet?

He read Simon’s mind and directed a wise response to what Simon was thinking, and He did so where others could judge that Jesus was indeed a prophet. He showed that He knew about the woman’s past, because He had forgiven her for what she had done.

2. What are some things Jesus did and said to Simon the Pharisee that showed Jesus was claiming to be God (or the Son of God)?

Jesus forgave the woman for her sins. As the Pharisees recognized along with others, only God can forgive sins and the woman demonstrated that she knew God's forgiveness. Jesus told Simon and the other guests that the woman's motive for what she was doing was love, because she had been forgiven much and therefore loved much. Before she came to wash Jesus' feet, she had been forgiven much and loved Him much.

3. What did the woman do for Jesus that showed her deep love for Him?

She washed His feet with her tears, dried them with her hair, kissed His feet, and poured perfume on His feet.

4. Which comes first, love for God and then forgiveness for sins by God or forgiveness for sins by God and then love for God? Give a reason for your answer.

Forgiveness for sins comes first, then love for God. Love for God does not earn or merit forgiveness by God. By grace, God forgives repentant sinners who trust in Jesus Christ. When a person knows their only hope for eternal life, cleansing from sin, and salvation is forgiveness of their sins by God; then after God in Christ forgives them and cleanses them, they love God and Jesus Christ supremely and seek to serve them.

5. What saved the woman? How do you know?

Her faith in Jesus, which she showed by her unashamed expressions of love for Jesus after He had forgiven her. Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

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