

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 12th September 2021
Sermon Title: The beauty of His heart
Bible Passage: Luke 7: 36 - 50

Recapping the Preach

- What is the most memorable meal / dinner party that you have ever been to? What made it so memorable?
- What is the most profound act of kindness you have ever received?
- How did you respond to this? How did you show your gratitude?

Take time to read the passage from a few different translations.

- Why do you think Luke included this story in his gospel?

Stu recounted the story of the woman and mentioned that it is likely that there is a prequel to this story, a moment where the woman has met Jesus and experienced His forgiveness.

- If you could see Jesus face to face, how would you express your gratitude for salvation? How did the woman do this in vs.36-38?
- What was the 'sinful woman' risking by gate crashing the meal at Simon's house? What do you think this says about her?
- Her actions are quite striking - what stands out to you most about what she did?
- What words would you use to describe Simon the Pharisee?
- What are the contrasts between the actions of the woman, the uninvited guest and that of Simon, the host.
- Contrasting the woman's worship and the worship you offer to God - is there anything about the woman's actions that challenge / inspire you?
- What do you think is the main concern of each of the characters: the woman, Jesus and Simon?

Stu suggested that the woman was responded to Jesus because she was drawn to the beauty of His heart. Beauty seen in the way He is drawn to sinners, His gentle invitation / welcome and the way He elevates the sinner.

- If Jesus is drawn to sinners, how should that inform our behaviour as disciples? What will 'being drawn to sinners' look like for you in practice?
- How else would you describe the beauty of Jesus' heart towards sinners?
- Stu mentioned the quote, *'for the penitent, his heart of gentle embrace is never outmatched by our sins and foibles and insecurities and doubts and anxieties and failures. For lowly gentleness is not one way Jesus occasionally acts toward others. Gentleness is who he is. It is his heart. He can't un-gentle himself toward his own any more than you or I could change our eye colour'*. What does this tell us about how we should / can approach Jesus?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- How can you reveal the beauty of Jesus heart to others on your frontline this week?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
- Take time to wait on the Lord, asking Him to reveal afresh His heart of grace toward you.
- Pray for the grace to show God's love to others wherever He has placed you.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>