

First Encounter #1
Adoration

Word

Scripture Reference

Read Luke 7:36-50

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever had the privilege of hosting a person of importance? What preparations did you do? Share your experience with the group.
2. Read Luke 7:36-50. In biblical times it was customary to show hospitality to a guest in your home by providing a means to wash dirt off his/her feet after travelling far. Compare how Simon the Pharisee treated Jesus as a guest in his house, and how the adulterous woman showed her regard for Jesus. What can you observe about both their actions toward Jesus?
3. What do Simon's thoughts in verse 39 imply about his opinion on the woman and his belief about Jesus? Simon was a religious leader, but how would you describe his heart attitude? In your sphere of influence, do you tend to distance yourself from people you see as undeserving or "too sinful" to draw near to Jesus? How do you often react when you are around such people?
4. Jesus responds to Simon by telling a short parable (v. 40-43). Discuss the circumstances presented in this story. What lesson was Jesus trying to point out to Simon? How does a person's heart attitude result in a heart of adoration? What are some instances when you tend to see yourself as more deserving or worthy than others? What perspective does the Bible teach you to develop in order to cultivate an undying passion and reverence for Jesus?
5. Jesus shows us a picture of what true adoration looks like by contrasting Simon and the woman's behavior. Providing water to wash the guests' feet in ancient times signifies that the host values his guest's presence by seeing to the guest's comfort. We see through the woman's actions described in verse 44 that the first evidence of true adoration is a warm welcome. Jesus never forces Himself into a person's life unless that person openly welcomes Him. Do you welcome Jesus to be part your life? How would you describe the quality of time and energy you spend for Him (i.e. devotion, prayer, etc.)?
6. Greeting with a kiss is a common courtesy that indicates a close relationship between two people. Verse 45 contrasts how Simon and the woman acknowledged their relationship with Jesus. Here we see that the second evidence of true adoration is genuine friendship. Do you publicly identify yourself with Jesus Christ? In what ways do you make Him known to the people in your spheres of influence? Describe some instances wherein you didn't explicitly let other people know about your association with Jesus.
7. Anointing is done to a person deemed worthy. Verse 46 tells us how Simon and the woman regarded Jesus. By pouring expensive perfume on Jesus' feet, the woman shows us the third evidence of true adoration, which is blessing someone of worth. What makes Jesus worthy of being deeply valued in your life? In what ways do you outwardly express by how you live that Jesus is indeed valuable and of the greatest worth to you?
8. What was the difference between Simon and the woman's encounter with Jesus (v. 47)? How much do you think you deserve God's forgiveness and salvation? Absolute, genuine adoration is the natural response that springs out of a believer's gratitude for the undeserved forgiveness and salvation freely given by Jesus Christ. Examine yourself and see if there is anything hindering you from expressing complete adoration of Jesus Christ as a response to what he has done for you.

Walk

A true encounter with Jesus Christ leads to a life-long adoration of Him. Recall your first encounter with Jesus, when you came to Him with a heart seeking to be forgiven and rescued. How have you been outwardly expressing your adoration of Him since then?

Worship & Prayer

Join the Corporate Prayer Time every Friday, 7:15-8:00pm at the Balcony

Pray for...

- GCCP disciples to be faithful hearers and doers of God's Word.
- Blessings for the 2014 Taiwan short-term mission. Wisdom, good health, safety and godly witness of the GCCP team.
- Good preparation and involvement of more singles in upcoming RELAX retreat.
- Grace, healing and salvation for Daryl, Baby Alex, LG, FW, Ang Chu Lan, Dy-Lin Segundo Yu, Anabelle Uytensu.
- JAL's safe pregnancy and healing of UTI.
- God's protection over KBC's marriage.