

WARMING UP

1. When you genuinely love someone (spouse, children, parents, close friends, etc.), what are some common evidences? How does this love typically manifest itself?

DIGGING IN

When God forgives, sinners show their love.

2. *Sin admitted (7:36-39).*
 - What is sin—how would you define it? Why is it such a big deal? Find a few passages that speak to the effects of sin in terms of our relationship with God.
 - How is taking responsibility for our actions and attitudes and recognizing the consequences of our sin an act of love toward God?
 - Few people today think they are without sin, but plenty think their sin is manageable or within acceptable limits. How can we fall prey to this faulty perspective?
3. *Helplessness acknowledged (7:40-43).*
 - What point is Jesus making with the parable of the two debtors? What is the message in terms of our ability to pay for our sin? How do Jesus' words from the cross, “It is finished,” address this issue?
 - Why is it so difficult for us to acknowledge our helplessness in any area of life? To what degree is this a challenge for you?
4. *Worship unleashed (7:44-47).*
 - How does the woman's act demonstrate an unashamed and unhindered worship of Jesus? What do Simon's actions (or lack thereof) reveal?
 - What does it look like to have a heart of worship today? What are some of the varied and tangible expressions of unleashed worship? How is your worship?
5. *Faith exercised (7:48-50a).*
 - What is it about Jesus that angers the religious leaders (see also 5:20-21)? Based on their (limited) understanding of who Jesus was, how is their reaction reasonable?
 - How does Jesus clarify, lest there be any confusion, exactly what has saved the woman (see also Romans 4:1-3)? Why is this distinction so crucial for each of us? How does the Reformation cry, *Sola Fide*, *Sola Gratia*, *Solus Christus*, relate to this?
6. *Peace received (7:50b).*
 - How is the customary greeting, “Go in peace,” packed with much greater meaning when Jesus uses it here? Look up the following passages for more context on this peace: Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:13-15; and Colossians 1:20.
 - How does God's forgiveness bring peace—not just in the eternal/positional sense, but also in the here-and-now/practical sense? Have you experienced this?

BREAKING OUT

7. Is the level of your love toward God commensurate with the extent of his forgiveness of your sin? Explain your answer. How specifically could you increase your love for him?