

# GRACE ALONE: WEEK 2- Grace is Action

## ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

1. What is one thing that you are looking forward to this week?
2. If you had the opportunity to undo some of the things you did in the past, what would it be?

## WORD

### ***Luke 7:36-38***

*36 When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. 37 A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. 38 As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them*

Today's message is called Grace is Action. Today we are going to look at a kind of dance between faith and grace as played out in the life of a sinful woman as she demonstrates a great act of faith towards Jesus.

What does it mean when we say that grace is an act? So to demonstrate that, we are going to talk about Luke 7:36-50. And We are going to look at just how a sinful woman demonstrated faith and receive the grace of God in her by her selfless love and devotion to Jesus. We'll also see how Jesus demonstrated Grace by showing this sinful woman undeserved favour in the sight of all, especially among those who did not welcome her.

So this apparently sinful woman leads by example, showing not only the Pharisees, but us to how to approach Jesus. Isn't that funny how God leads us through the least expected people? She does the very thing that only the

humble are willing to do. And not only did she weep, she was so focused on the worthiness of Jesus, that she did not even consider her unworthiness!

## DISCUSSIONS

Explain how has this Grace as an action has helped you overcome any feeling of unworthiness in your life?

## WORD

To receive grace we need to be willing to go to the grace giver. Jesus has all the grace and the love and the mercy in the world for you. All we have to do is swallow our pride and come to him, to walk straight past the mockers, and scorners, the doubters and receive grace from the only one who's favour truly counts.

Here she puts her dignity completely on the line to honor Jesus. And in a moment of complete tension, we might ask in our own lives: Is Jesus going to catch our dignity, when we surrender it before him? Is he going to lift us up when we we humble ourselves? Is Jesus able to extend grace to us when we are honest with him about our sins and weaknesses?

### **Luke 7:39**

*When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."*

But notice how in her devotion to Jesus, she doesn't even answer Simon or pay attention to the others. She came among the people who were guaranteed to criticize her, but her desire was to honour Jesus alone. She wasn't even acknowledging the others or their criticisms. She only came to bring glory to Jesus.

For some of us here, we had to face rejection by family, by friends, people who we care deeply about. Some were rejected by girlfriends or boyfriends

to follow Jesus, by classmates or workmates. Some of you might have lost jobs or faced the criticisms of your own friends. Yet you trusted that Jesus would be with you and have without a doubt received his grace.

## DISCUSSION

Explain a time that you experienced the grace of God in your life. How did this experience of God's grace encourage you?

## LIFE APPLICATION

Let's have the boldness and the faith to take action and go before Jesus' throne of grace despite the sins, fears and shame we may have. It is doing as James the brother of Jesus says:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.

Let the grace of God extends to the worst of us. We are thankful to the amazing grace that we have that turns sinners into saints, that bestows value and purpose and indignity on us even when others don't see it and when others do not recognize it. Others may say you are not invited to the party. But Jesus welcome us, and greet us, and lift us out out of our sin and shame when we come to Him. Let us pray this week that we would set aside our fears of reputation, our time, our talents and our treasures and set them before Jesus, as He welcome us into His presence.

## VERSE TO MEDITATE ON

*Hebrews 4:16 ESV*

*Let us then draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

## **PRAYER**

Share your prayer request and answered prayer. Pray for one another and throughout this week.



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