

Rockford Reformed Church
Luke 7:36-39 - "Love at the Table"
10/7/18 – Pastor Tim Meendering

Questions for family/small group discussions:

1. Luke's gospel reveals who Jesus is and challenges us with how we are going to respond. Read through Luke 4-7 and discuss these questions: What do the stories say about who Jesus is and how we are to be different? The religious leaders actively reject Jesus or his teachings. How do we often find ourselves subtly/passively doing the same? How is Jesus revealed as being worthy of our lives/obedience?

2. When you read the story in Luke 7:36-50, what are the key characteristics/differences between the Pharisee and the sinful woman? What was some of the Pharisee's history that led to his response? What are some elements of your history that leads to similar habits and ways of thinking today?

3. How can you identify with the "sinful woman" with having a "past" that might include shame, a "reputation," or significant sin?

4. What would it look like for you to dump the baggage of your history and your past? In what ways do you struggle to do so?

5. As Jesus sits down for "table fellowship" with sinners, he redefines holiness and his kingdom in terms of love, acceptance and hospitality. What could/should it look like, both personally and as a church family, if we were to embrace, "No matter what kind of unclean, you can eat with us, and we will show you the way to become clean"?

Jesus' table is...

1. A place of _____.

How have you seen it to be true that "You will love Jesus and others only to the degree that you soak in and receive his love and forgiveness for you"? Where is the "breakdown" for you when you struggle to love Jesus and to love, pursue and make room for others in your life?

2. A place of _____ and _____.

How does/should the vision of Jesus and his table provided in Is. 25:6, Rev. 19:9 and Mt. 8:11 impact how you relate to those who don't know this table fellowship?

3. A _____ of _____.

If you love Jesus, what does Lk. 14:12-14 and Mt. 25:35 say about what should be your way of life?

Jesus was rejected and suffered death with arms wide open to you so that you could be accepted and live with your arms wide open to others. What is one significant step you can take this week? Share your successes with each other and help hold each other accountable.

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