

**Early Summer - Cycle C - Revised Common Lectionary**  
**Pentecost through Proper 10**  
**May 27, 2007 - July 15, 2007**

We remain Easter people, now with the wind of the Holy Spirit in our sails. Our task for the months ahead, in this season of Ordinary Time, which extends to the end of November, is to look at what Jesus so tenaciously taught his disciples and see what is in these teachings for us, as we carry out the work we have been given to do. Jesus promised his disciples a helper, an Advocate, who would stand with them making the work possible. This same helper, the Holy Spirit, hovers over us, still eager to quench the fire of fear and replace it with the powerful energy of love.

**Proper 6**  
**June 17, 2007**  
**Luke 7:36 – 8:3**

**A notation for this week's Gospel**

Luke's Gospel accompanies us on the rest of our journey this year. Luke fleshes out the parables, adding rich details not found in the other gospel accounts. Today, it is the story of the woman who is self-convicted of sin. Her relief at encountering forgiveness flows out of her in an extravagant display of gratitude. Are we so able to confront our transgressions, confess them, and then believe they are truly forgiven, that we, too, can dance our gratitude?

### **Lesson Plans for Adults**

**Theme:** The gratitude that flows from forgiveness.

**Before Class.** You will need copies of the Bible. If you think your group would resonate to the "Option" suggested, bring plain paper and either pencils or even crayons.

**Beginning.** Tell the class that gratitude, of course, comes in many "flavors" and that today we are going to be looking at the gratitude that comes from forgiveness from something that has weighed heavily on our hearts. Ask the group to think about such a time -- not necessarily to share it, but to hold it -- when you received forgiveness you did not expect, let alone think you deserved, and the rush of gratitude you experienced.

**Opening Prayer.** Thank you, God, for the gift of gratitude that flows from forgiveness. Amen.

**The Scripture.** **Luke 7: 36 - 50.** Ask for a reader to read verses 36 - 38. Then allow a moment or two for reflection. Then ask for a reader to read verse 39, and then pause. The third reader can read verses 40 - 43 and pause. A reader can read verses 44 - 46, and pause. The last reader can read verses 48 - 50.

### **Some Questions.**

As a group, come up with a working definition of a "Pharisee." (Note they were usually deeply religious and concerned with keeping the fine points of the law observed — which made Jesus a very difficult problem for them.)

What was the hospitable custom this Pharisee had overlooked in inviting Jesus to his table? (Verses 44b- 46) Such "hospitality" was usually offered by a slave or at least a servant. How does that fact make this action of the woman even more over the edge in the eyes of the Pharisee? (Stickler for detail, this detail got past him. "Sinners" would not get a dinner invitation.)

Why did Jesus' declaration that the woman's sins had been forgiven so unnerve the dinner guests? (Believing that only God could forgive sin, who could this Jesus possibly be?)

What, says Jesus, is it that has saved this woman? (Her faith.)

**Option.** Pass out paper and whatever you brought to draw with. Invite the group to sketch, if that appeals to them, or just write words they hear, as you read the entire passage, once more, to the group.

**Getting Closure.** Invite feedback - what people want to share that they drew or wrote.

**Closing Prayer.** Dear God, we ask you to enlarge our ability to be with our gratitude — let it flow through our lives and out into service to you and those you send to us. Amen.