

SERMON NOTES



This week's sermon
NEXT II: THE RECIPROCAL EFFECT
LUKE 8:1-3

The reciprocal effect of the love of God means that those who receive the love of God respond by giving all things they have to God and to His service.

LUKE 8:1-3

1 Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, 2 and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, 3 and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

People who have received the love of Jesus and the forgiveness of sins respond by generously supplying the ministry of Jesus on the earth. That means that giving to the mission of the church is never an act of force or compulsion but is the generous reciprocal effect of the love of God for sinners.

We are at a crossroads . Will we stop here, content to stay the same size, to stop seeking to grow and reach, or will we generously supply the mission and take the NEXT step that God has for us?

Digging Deeper into the Message

Read Luke 7:36-50 and answer the questions below.

Observe everything you can about the Pharisee. Write your observations below.

Observe everything you can about the Woman, including her actions and emotions. Write your observations below.

Why do you think the Pharisee's name is included in this story and the Woman's isn't?

The story records the Pharisee (Simon)'s initial reaction to the Woman but not his final reaction to Jesus' explanation. What are some possible ways Simon may have reacted at the end of the story?

What is it that ultimately saves the Woman from her sins? (verse 50)

Community Group

ICEBREAKER: Which of Harvest's ministries has blessed you recently?

QUESTIONS:

- ❖ Recall the story that Pastor Mike read at the beginning of the sermon (the sinner washing Jesus' feet). Have you ever initially had a strong negative reaction to something but then later changed your mind after giving it some thought?
- ❖ Someone define (or look up the definition) the word "reciprocal". Then read the first point on the MAP.
- ❖ Those who have been forgiven much respond by loving God (and people) back and giving it all back to him. What about you? Have you been forgiven? Is this evident in your life? Do you give back your time and resources to God with joy?
- ❖ Read Luke 8:1-3 on the front of the MAP. Are you surprised that there were women traveling around with Jesus? What are the implications of this in a society where women weren't regarded as equal to men? Finally, what were the women doing?
- ❖ Do you ever find a desire within yourself that you *want* to give back to God- not to earn your righteousness but because of gratitude for what he did for you? Was there ever a time in your life when you were actually excited to give to a cause in the name of Christ?
- ❖ Read the last two points on the MAP. What is holding you back from giving more time and resources to advance God's kingdom?

APPLICATION: Whatever you decide to give is far less than you've been given. Pray and ask God to give you the desire to give to his kingdom!