

# Unashamed

## Part 4 – Jesus at the Center

### Luke 7.36-51

TRENT

Romans 1.16

Hold on to these two big truths:

- We don't get to define God for ourselves or define ourselves for God
- Those who experience God's grace deeply express their passion boldly

#### Jesus is unashamed

\*\* He is unashamed to sit at the Simon's table \*\* (v.36)

ILL: lunch table where we are either (a) looking for a seat or (b) scared someone will try to sit with us

We all have tables that we have labeled – tables that we don't think should exist or we would rather die than sit at (or be found to be sitting at)

- We are afraid to be labeled as complicit or compromised if we sit there

Jesus shows up in places we don't expect Him.

- When you look at Jesus' interactions with the Pharisees, you'd NEVER expect Him to show up at Simon's table
- Their question may be your question: does Jesus really belong at that table? How could He ever eat with that guy?
- Normally we think of spiritual disagreement as with "sinners" and in doing so show ourselves to **be** Simon. But even when we do, Jesus is willing to sit with us just like him

It's a signal of grace that Jesus is willing to engage with those with whom He disagrees spiritually, refusing to spurn them socially – contra every social media (and media in general) approach to relationship right now – He refuses the kind of tribalism (not the tribe)

BRAD

\*\* He is unashamed of the woman who doesn't belong (and her affection) \*\* (v.37-38)

ILL – Why are we disgusted?

3 Primary classifications of disgust

1. Core
2. Animal-Reminder
3. Sociomoral

In our story today we see Jesus in this domain of sociomoral disgust...again. It happens regularly with him.

By all accounts, the woman in our story is someone to be avoided and even shunned based on moral and social judgment. No doubt Simon was ashamed that she had gotten to Jesus.

ILL – white paint/maroon paint NEGATIVITY DOMINANCE

Jesus, however, reverses the negativity dominance and employs what Richard Beck calls “positivity dominance,” whereas Jesus has no fear of contamination.

This woman had nowhere else to turn.

- She had heard of Jesus, maybe even heard his teaching from Luke 6, the Sermon on the Plain.
- If she knew anything of Jesus, **she knew he was her only hope.**

Contact with someone of such disgust, carried certain shame. This woman brings to Jesus both tears and hair, kisses and ointment, sorrow and sin, boldness and gratitude, worship and faith. When Jesus accepts her, he is not disgusted. He is not ashamed. His extension of grace moves her...

### **HER EXPERIENCE OF GRACE LED HER TO THIS PROFOUND AND UNASHAMED MOMENT OF WORSHIP.**

The pride at that table could have impeded the grace that she came seeking. **THE SHAME THAT WAS CAST TOWARD HER WAS THWARTED BY THE INDELIBLE GRACE OF AN UNASHAMED KING.** She would never be the same...she had been forgiven much and could now go and love much.

TRENT

Why was Jesus unashamed? Because He was unafraid

**\*\* He is unafraid of external sins \*\***

These are the ones easily seen – immorality, uncleanness in the woman

We have our own list of these: KIDS MOMENT

BRAD

What external sins are we afraid of? If you say nothing, ask yourself some questions...

- What activities make me uncomfortable when others participate around me?
- What actions offend me as a Christian?
- What attitudes in others make me angry?
- What behaviors do I absolutely not want my children exposed to?

Language, television habits, parenting failures, alcohol consumption, off-color jokes, etc.

They are all very real and have real consequences on life – but Jesus is unafraid of them

- He knows He will not catch their sins like we catch colds
- Maybe a caveat here: do you need to be thoughtful about your own struggles? Yes
- ILL: “Italian Food for lunch”
- APP: Gossip in the break room – I refuse to go there NOT because of THEM but because of ME and the health of my soul

**\*\* He is unafraid of internal sins**

TRENT

These are the ones not easily seen – they are easily hidden

- In this story, the list is pretty long: pride, inhospitality (including choosing convenience over service), judgmentalism, idolatry (“he can’t be a prophet”) and a commitment to correctness that is untouched by compassion
- At the top of our list are anger and unforgiveness – attitudes / postures of the heart that we can so easily justify to ourselves BECAUSE we think this offends Jesus and therefore I need to bear that offense for Him
  - To do this only ends up hurting us (especially with anger and unforgiveness)

Why is He unafraid of sins? Why can He say with authority, “Your sins are forgiven” (causing quite a bit of angst among those at the table)?

- Notice He is not dismissing those sins – He is forgiving them

Because He is the Messiah who has conquered sin, taking it on Himself, carrying our shame for us, and bearing our brokenness -> COMMUNION

“Go in Peace” – forgiven much -> loves much -> GO

Questions for Discussion:

1. Where would be the most surprising place you can think of to find Jesus sitting, working, or dining?
2. For which do you have more grace: being judgmental toward others' sins or wrestling with your own? For which of those do you need more grace?
3. If you had to name one external sin you're struggling with right now, what would it be? What would your internal sin be? Can you hear Jesus' voice speaking forgiveness?