

# The Beautiful Exchange

## Luke 7:36-50

1. In your opinion, what are the best characteristics of the Christian faith? What helps Christians to be at their best?
2. As you read Luke 7:36-50 consider the three groups of people in this story and how they judge between what is good and bad. You have the Pharisees, how do they Judge between good and bad? You have Jesus and the woman, how are they judging between good and bad? And you have the spectators, how do you think they are judging between good and bad?
3. What are the different values that underlie these three different perspectives?
4. In light of this story what kind of change is Jesus seeking to bring to the way we judge others?
5. Why do you suppose the woman is so thankful for Jesus new way of seeing things?
6. *“Jesus has bestowed on her a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair (Isaiah 61:3). Jesus has brought her, life (John 10:10) and freedom (John 8:36) and you can see that life and freedom fully expressed in her outrageous outpouring of thankfulness at Jesus feet”* – What is beautiful about grace?
7. How does the beautiful exchange of grace impact on your desire to share your faith?
8. *In this culture, woman have some limited rights and protections but only in the inner sanctums of their own households and often not even there. To move out of that private world into the public world without permission or the protection of male family members was extremely dangerous, violently dangerous. Think Taliban, and their attitude towards woman in public spaces and you are beginning to get an idea of the risk she is taking.* – It would take something very powerful for a woman to put herself at such risk – What makes grace powerful?
9. Central in this story is the power of forgiveness (verse 48). In what ways is the message of God’s forgiveness a difficult message to share in a secular society? In what ways is the message of God’s forgiveness important for a secular society? What other ways do we have to introduce people to God’s forgiveness?

“Instead of only relying on the concepts of sin and forgiveness we also have the Holy Spirit arms of our heavenly father wrapped around our sons and daughters (Luke 15:1-24, Romans 8:16), pouring out love and forgiveness, which overcomes all the cultural limitations of words. As Paul says...*our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.* (1 Thessalonians 1:5a)”