

## The Parable of the Two Debtors

### Luke 7:36 – 50

This parable is found only in **Luke**. Let's read the entire account and parable by reading **Luke 7:36 – 50**.

Comparing verses 36, 39, and 40 what is the likely purpose for which the Pharisee invited Jesus to dinner?

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At the same time, in the context of his invitation and considering how the Pharisee treats Jesus what is his apparent attitude toward Jesus?

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From the Pharisee's perspective, who is in control of the whole situation?

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How does this relate to how people in our society often approach Jesus including many who profess to be Christians?

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How do you think the woman gained access to the house/dinner area? Any of your commentaries address this?

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One commentator points out that prostitutes in that day wore a flask around their neck filled with perfume as part of their allure. The flask was in essence a tool of the trade. He goes on to state that this woman was most likely doing was pouring out the perfume onto Jesus' feet to not only honor Jesus but as a sign that she is leaving behind her life as a prostitute and her likely only source of income. She is saying to Jesus you are the most valuable thing and I trust God to show me the way forward.

How do you think her faith compares with the faith of the Pharisee? What kind of faith in God does he have?

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How would we recognize whether we have the faith of the woman or the faith of the Pharisee?

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What is the significance that she let her hair down?

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Imagine seeing a scene like this in our society. What would you think? Can you blame the Pharisee?

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Who is the money lender in the Parable? \_\_\_\_\_

Obviously the debtor who owes 50 denarii represents the Pharisee and the one who owes 500 denarii represents the prostitute. How is that comparison likely to be misinterpreted relative to sin and how do we do the same thing?

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What do the two debtors have in common – how are they the same? And how does this relate to the Pharisee and the woman?

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When a debt is forgiven, who pays the debt?

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Why are the Pharisee and his guests aghast that Jesus forgave the woman's sins?

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What came first for the woman forgiveness or her love for Jesus? How do we know this?

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What is the irony in the Pharisee's understanding of his situation before God compared to the woman's?

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What is the dominant theological theme of this incident/parable?

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