

## Understanding Jesus: The Surprising Truth about Love

Do you love? Seriously, do you genuinely love God and the people He has put in your life in both word and deed? Would you say that love is what fills your heart and characterizes your life and interactions? Or would you say at times that you are love-deficient? What would the people around you say? In the passage we are looking at today Jesus gets to the very core of what fuels our love for God and for other people. Let's look at this surprising truth about love.

**Opening Discussion:** What is a one of your most memorable dining experiences?

### Read Luke 7:36-50

1. Describe what happens at the dinner (vv. 36-39)?
2. What does the Pharisee say to himself about the woman and Jesus' response to her (v. 39)? And then reading between the lines of the Pharisee's thoughts, what is he really thinking? What does it reveal about him?
3. What is the point of the parable that Jesus tells to address Simon's thinking?
4. What do you think Jesus means when he says that "he who is forgiven little loves little" (v. 47)?

Steve said:

There is a distinctive type of love that only Christians can show. And it begins with a **love for God**. Remember in Jesus' parable, the one who was forgiven the large sum of money loved the moneylender who canceled that debt. Christians love God because he is the one who has cancelled their debt. The repentant woman loved Jesus (God in the flesh) so extravagantly because he had canceled her debt. The love of Christian is distinct because it comes from a deep, deep gratitude over the fact that God has canceled a crushing debt that I could never repay. [John wrote in 1 John 4:19, "We love because God first loved us."]

5. Do you believe that you have been forgiven a "crushing debt that [you] could never repay (do you believe this at a heart-level)? Why or why not?

