

## **Questions for Housegroup Luke 7 - Jesus anointed by a woman.**

**In this story we find a woman who was disregarded and misunderstood. Judgement came before mercy or grace and coloured the reaction of those watching.** How have we misunderstood peoples actions in the past or how have we been misunderstood? How did this make us feel?

**Eleanor shared some really helpful insights into shame the other week. The lady in this weeks passage had a lot to feel ashamed about but was able to step over that shame and listen to her heart instead.** Think about the power that shame currently has in your life. Shame feeds us lies about our true selves and makes us question our worth. This woman witnessed Jesus' acceptance of those like her, rejected by society. This gave her confidence to approach him. Shame can't breathe when surrounded by empathy and acceptance. Do we have people in our lives whom we trust enough to be really honest with even about our shame?

**Jesus sees her, really sees her. He is gentle and compassionate, he takes this act of submission and true heart worship in the spirit in which it is offered. He does not rebuke or suggest a more appropriate demonstration. What matters to him in this moment is the heart of this woman and the sacrifice she has made in coming to find him in this place.** What does our worship of God look like? What can we learn from this woman and how can we apply that to our own lives?

**The Bible asks us to 'Be still and know that God is God' It is when we are still, stripped of our trophies, alone without our masks, childlike, dependent, vulnerable, needy. That is when God has the freedom to work in our hearts.** The Ego likes to hold close the things that give us value in society. Can we identify some of these things? How does the idea of coming to God without these things make us feel? Do we find it easy or hard to believe that God truly does accept us just as we are?

**Looking back over the pages of my life it has often been in or as a result of, ridiculously hard times, that my relationship with God has grown and developed and that I have felt validated and seen by God.** This is my experience. Is it something that you can relate to? Looking back, how has God changed your outlook on life because of your life experiences? What impact has this had on your faith?

**Perhaps try praying a blessing on each other before you finish.**