

# **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner ?**

**Luke 7: 36-50**

# Discuss ...

- What determines how much you love Jesus?
- To what extent should our love for Jesus be emotional?

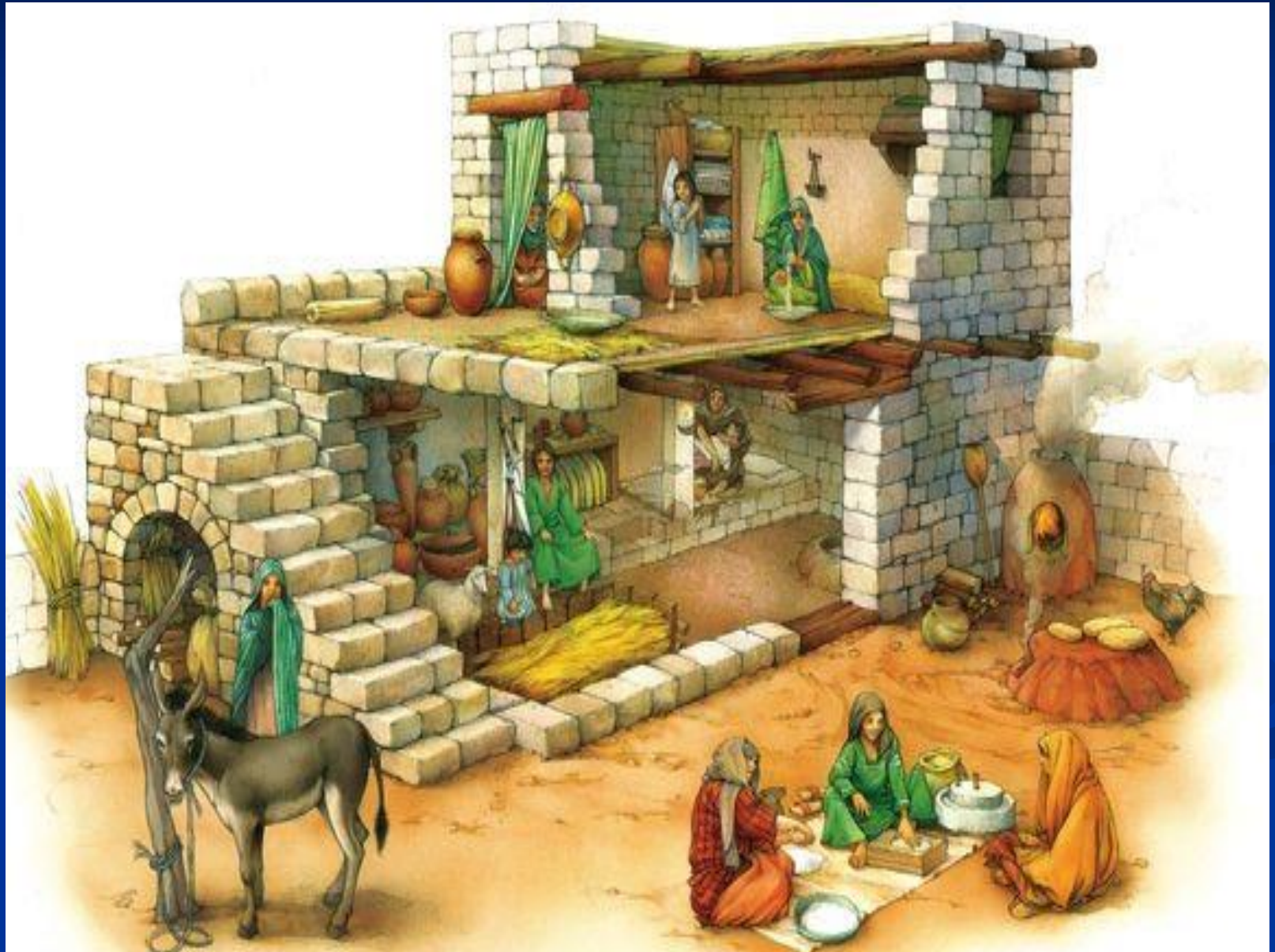
# Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

<sup>36</sup> When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. <sup>37</sup> A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. <sup>38</sup> As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

# Context for today's story

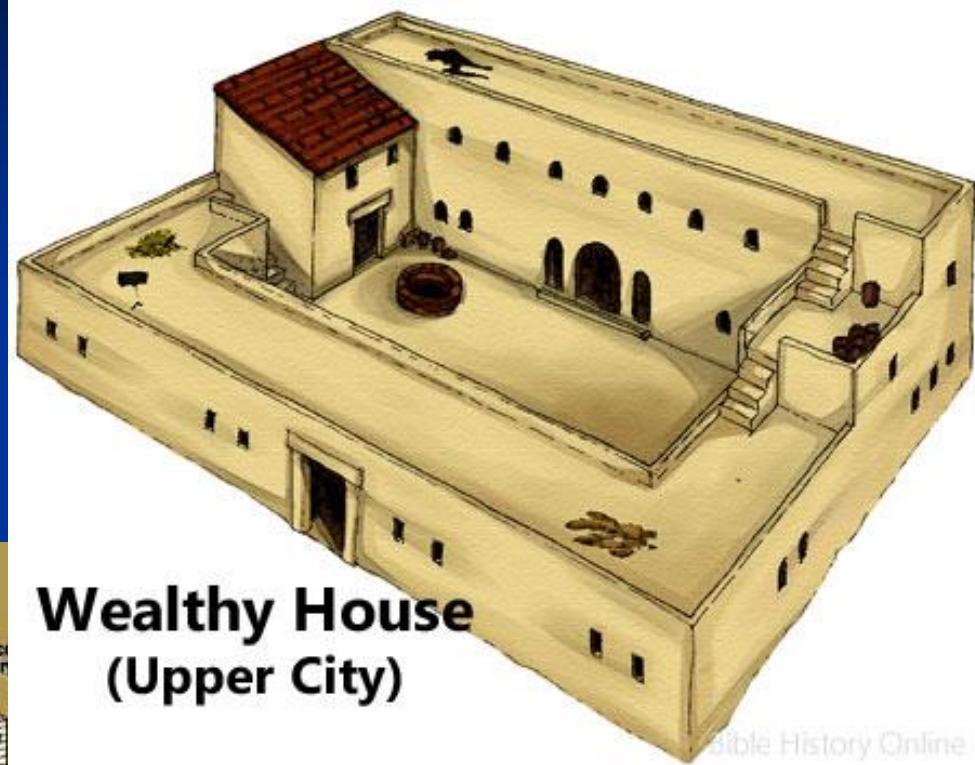
- ❑ Parallel passage for Luke 7:18-35 is Matthew 11
  - ❑ Jesus commends John the Baptist and condemns the Pharisees and experts in the Law
  - ❑ Jesus denounces towns where He performed most of His miracles
  - ❑ Jesus changes His tone, prays to His Father, and gives the great invitation (Matthew 11: 28-30)
- “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11: 28-30)

# Typical home



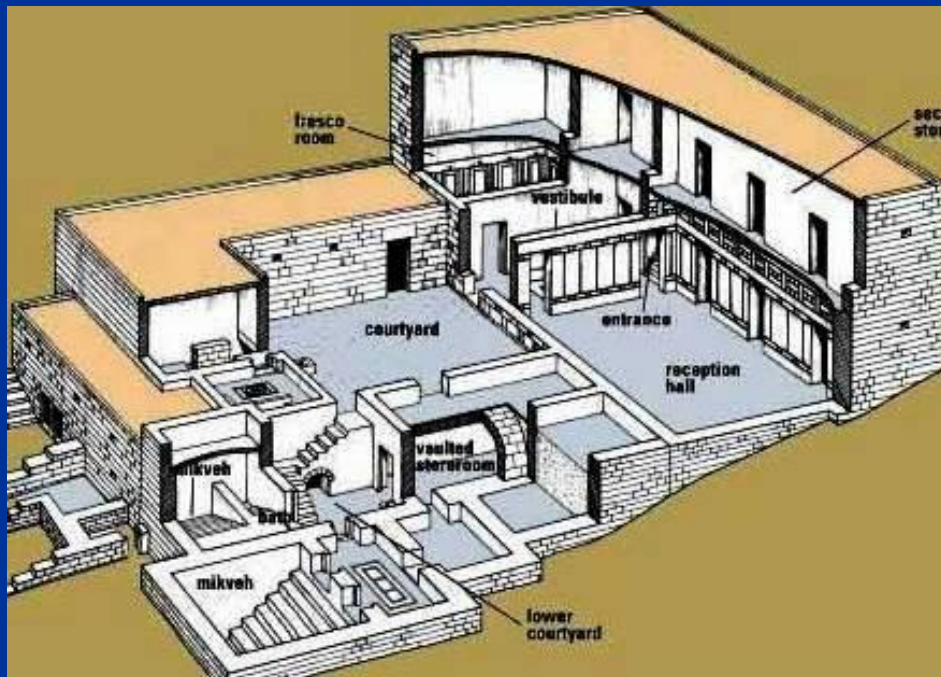


# Home of the wealthy



**Wealthy House  
(Upper City)**

[Bible History Online](#)



# Reclining at the Table





# Simon – a Pharisee

- ❑ Not typical Pharisee; perhaps not a good one
- ❑ Curious – “Who is this Jesus?”
- ❑ Cool & detached; diplomatic; careful & cautious
- ❑ Invited Jesus for dinner, but not as honored guest



# Unidentified “woman”

- ❑ Lived a sinful life; immoral
- ❑ Came to anoint Jesus’ feet with perfume
- ❑ Jesus’ forgiveness had transformed her life
- ❑ Love for Jesus overcame shame & fear
- ❑ Overcame by emotions and started to weep

# Jesus

- Accepted Simon's invitation to dinner
- Allowed woman to carry out what she came to do

<sup>36</sup> One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and reclined to eat. <sup>37</sup> When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. <sup>38</sup> Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them. (Luke 7: 36-38, NLT)

# Simon reflects on what he had just seen ...

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.” (Luke 7: 39)

- Simon’s question: “Who is this Jesus?”



# Parable of 2 Debtors

“Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?” (Luke 7: 41-42)

And Jesus answering said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” And he answered, “Say it, Teacher.” (Luke 7: 40; ESV)

# What do 2 debtors share in common?

- Both owed money which they can't repay
- If you can't repay your debt, does it matter how much you owe ?
- If you can't swim, does it matter whether you're drowning in 50 ft of water or 500 ft ?
- “Simon, there's fundamentally no difference between you and this woman.”

# Background Info

- Host greeted invited guests with 3 things:
  - a Kiss of Welcome
  - water to wash feet
  - oil to anoint head
- 
- Simon did not offer any of the above to Jesus !

Jesus looks at the woman while speaking  
to Simon ...

Then [Jesus] turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. <sup>45</sup> You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. <sup>46</sup> You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ...”  
(Luke 7: 44-46)



# Jesus asks Simon

- “Do you see this woman?”
- “Do you know why she is doing these things?”
- “Do you realize what God has done in her?”

# What Simon “sees”

- “She’s a sinner” (v. 49)

# What Simon couldn't "see"

- "She's a 'new' person because of God's forgiveness"

<sup>16</sup> So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! <sup>17</sup> This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! <sup>18</sup> And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ.

(2 Cor. 5: 16-18, NLT)

# Jesus continues ...

Then [Jesus] turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. <sup>45</sup> You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. <sup>46</sup> You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.

<sup>47</sup> Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”



# Jesus really wants Simon to get it

- There's no difference between you and her; both of you have sinned against God
- She's no longer the person you once knew; she's now clean
- Her gratitude and love are in exact proportion with her sense of sinfulness

# Jesus finally speaks to the woman

- “Your sins are forgiven” (v. 48)
- “Your faith has saved you” (v. 50a)
- “Go in peace” (v. 50b)

# Simon's problem

- He couldn't see clearly
- He couldn't see himself
- “I owe Jesus nothing”

## Important truth from this story

- *Our love for Jesus is directly related to our estimate of how greatly we have sinned (and thus how much Jesus has forgiven us)*



# Final Questions

- Just who is this story about?
- Simon ?
- Former prostitute ?
- Jesus?

# Final Questions

- Simon and the woman: Who has the “bigger” debt? Who needs forgiveness more?
- *We look at the outside; God looks on the inside*
- *God sees Simon’s pride, prejudice and self-righteousness in need of forgiveness; Simon had problems seeing all that*
- *We’re all so guilty we could never repay the debt we owe!*
- What do you think happened to Simon after the dinner?