

This weekend, we continued our series, *Disciple: The Short Stories of Jesus*, and looked at “The Parable of the Two Debtors.” We learned that the Kingdom of God is a Kingdom of deep forgiveness, and that Jesus calls us into a deep experience *with* Him that leads to a deep passion *for* Him. We will continue to explore these important lessons in this week’s Life Group study.

## PAUSE

Take a moment and pray the words of King David from **Psalm 139:23-24** over your time in this study.

*Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.*

## READ

Read pages **94-99** of David Wenham’s *The Parables of Jesus*. If you do not have a copy of this book yet, you can find a PDF of these pages on our website at **rockypeak.org/disciple**. If you prefer a hard copy, you can pick one up at Starting Point on the Worship Center Patio during weekend services. **This will be the last week we are posting excerpts from this book.** You can also access the reading by scanning the QR code.



As you read, highlight, mark up, and make notes of the things that stand out to you.

## STUDY

- Reread the account of the dinner at Simon’s house and the parable Jesus told in response to Simon’s judgment of Jesus and the woman in **Luke 7:36-50**. Write down anything that stands out to you.
  - Picture yourself at the dinner table during this party. What do you think your initial reaction to the woman would have been?
  - Imagine the life of this woman. What in her background could have led her to respond so powerfully to Jesus’ message of redemption and forgiveness?
- On page **98**, Wenham gives a graphic description of what might have taken place at Simon’s table while Jesus’ feet were washed by the woman who was overcome with gratitude. Go back and reread the first half of that page.
  - Have you ever experienced or expressed this kind of intense love for the Lord? Explain.
  - If so, what did it look like for you to express that love?
- In today’s reading, Wenham says,

*God’s revolution meant deliverance for the needy, the oppressed and the depressed, for the sick, the demon-possessed and the sinners. Jesus’ opponents expected sinners to be judged in the coming kingdom, and, although they subscribed in theory to the desirability of getting sinners to repent, in practice they tended to keep away from evildoers, and they expected God to endorse their condemnation of the unclean and the ungodly. [...] Jesus seemed to be undermining their high standards, and they protested vocally.*

This weekend we saw that *The Gospel ... Is Good News* of forgiveness to everyone—those near to God and those far away.

- a. Who do you think fits into this category of “far from God” today? What hope is found in Jesus for people like that?
- b. Often, those who think they are “close to God” have a harder time seeing their need for Him. This was true of Simon and can be true in our own lives. Why do you think people who believe they are “close to God” have a harder time seeing their need for grace?

4. Later in the Gospels, we see another story of someone who would be considered “far from God” striving to catch a glimpse of Jesus. Read **Luke 19:1-10** and notice Jesus’ unexpected response.

- a. What things in this account might have kept Zacchaeus separated from Jesus?
- b. What offer did Jesus make to Zacchaeus, and how did he respond to that offer?
- c. What was the response of those watching this exchange?
- d. How does Zacchaeus demonstrate his devotion to Jesus in response to Jesus’ message of forgiveness?

5. This weekend, we learned that the deeper our experience with Jesus, the deeper our passion for Jesus and the Kingdom.

- a. How do you regularly remember and/or experience the forgiveness of Jesus?
- b. Pause for a moment and reflect. Where would you be without His forgiveness?
- c. What other experiences with Jesus have increased your passion for Him?
- d. Are you satisfied with your current level of experience with Jesus and the Spirit? If so, explain why. If not, how would you like this to grow?

e. Are you willing to give Jesus permission to change your heart so He becomes your top passion?

## RESPOND

Take some time and ask the Lord to remind you how much you need His forgiveness. Ask Him to increase your passion and devotion for Him and to remind you of the depth of His love and grace for you.