



”MARKED”

Read Luke 7:36-50 aloud while the others follow along...

1. Pretend you are the Pharisee. What type of person would be the equivalent of the woman ‘who had lived a sinful life’ to you? You wouldn’t want to associate with her, especially not in your home. Why type of sins would be virtually unforgiveable to you?
2. If the group is safe enough, share the largest ‘sin-debt’ you’ve ever forgiven. The largest you’ve ever been forgiven of by someone.
3. vv. 48 & 49 are part of Luke’s revelation regarding Jesus’ true nature: He forgives sin. In Jewish religious teaching, only God could do that. And to state that you could was the equivalent of placing oneself on the same level as God—the same as blasphemy. The religious folks understand the implications of Jesus’ statement. When was the first time you remember really understanding Jesus’ statement in your own life?
4. Spend some time in silence as a group, thinking back on your biggest sin-debt. Think deep. Perhaps it’s something you’ve never told anyone. Perhaps it’s something that if made public, would ruin you. After you have that in your mind, spend some quiet time confessing that sin to Christ in silence. Simply privately lay that before Him. Do so knowing that by His sacrifice on the cross, you are un-marked. Home Team Leaders, when you think enough time has passed, please invite your group to use the group confession together, out loud:

Group: *Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.*

Leader: *In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
(John 1:6; Philippians 1:6)*