

**Title: An Awkward Dinner Party**

Read Luke 7:36-50. Imagine yourself as one of the guests at this dinner party. What would you have found most embarrassing or awkward?

What is the significance of the parable that Jesus tells in v41-42. How does it explain the actions of Simon and the woman?

What is the difference in the hospitality shown by Simon and the woman toward Jesus? What does this reveal about their hearts?

“Many Christians have a respectable relationship with Jesus, like Simon. But Jesus doesn’t just want our respect. He wants our love, adoration, and devotion, like this woman.” Discuss this quote—how does it apply to your relationship with Jesus?

Why do many Christians love Jesus with their heads but not their hearts? Does this describe you?

Loving Jesus with our hearts begins by recognising how much we have been forgiven by him (remember the parable in v41-42). How can we grasp more of this?

Cultivating a heart-level love for Jesus is not something that happens instantaneously. It grows over time as we nurture a deep devotional life. Consider the following areas:

Prayer—what kind of prayers do you pray?

How can you pray more from your heart, not just your head?

Scripture—How and why do you read the Bible?

How can you read the Bible in a way that stirs your heart with affection for Christ?

Connecting with God—what ways, places and experiences help connect your heart with the heart of God?

How can you prioritise these things more in your life?

How can we pursue a deep love for Jesus if we are not a particularly emotional person?