

Quickie review questions:

- What does “Define the Relationship” mean? How does it apply to the topic of being a fan or a fully committed follower of Jesus Christ?
- How did Jesus “Define the Relationship” with the huge crowd that followed him? (John 6)
- How did Jesus “Define the Relationship” with Nicodemus? What were the results?

**Today’s topic: Knowledge of Him or Intimacy with Him?**

Luke 7:36-50 NIV When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. (37) 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. (38) 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. (39) 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." (40) Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. (41) "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. (42) 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?" (43) Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. (44) Then he turned

**Rules of etiquette for a 1<sup>st</sup> century dinner guest**

- The customary greeting for an honored guest was a kiss
- Washing of their feet was considered mandatory before the meal
- For an especially distinguished guest you may also give them an inexpensive olive oil for anointing their head

Vs 44-46 To what extent did Simon honor Jesus as a special guest?

What kind of woman was this?

What kind of man was Simon?

Which was the greatest sinner? 

Vs 40-43 & 47 Who was forgiven more?

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. (45) You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. (46) You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. (47) Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." (48) Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." (49) The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" (50) Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

## Is there a tendency in the church world to confuse knowledge for intimacy?

*Think about it: We love having Bible **studies**, many of which include kind of **workbook**. We go through a Bible **curriculum** that often has **homework**. Sermons are often accompanied by an **outline** where members can **take notes** and **fill in the blanks**. Many preachers refer to their sermons as a lesson or a **lecture**. You attend to Sunday **school**, where you have a **teacher**. As a child, during the summer you go to Vacation Bible **School**. As an adolescent and teen you compete in Bible Quiz, which is won or lost depending on how much **biblical knowledge** you've accumulated and how fast you can raise your hand or hit a button.*

*The problem isn't knowledge. The problem is that you can have knowledge without having intimacy. In fact, knowledge can be a false indicator of intimacy. Clearly where there is intimacy there should be a growing knowledge, but too often there is knowledge without a growing intimacy.*

*Where there is knowledge without intimacy you are really no more than a fan.*

The Hebrew word for "knowing" is Yada. It involves great intimacy. It is the exact word used to define the most intimate relations between a husband and wife. It is also the level at which God "knows" us and of which God wants to be "known" by us.

In the end the religious leader with all the knowledge is the fan, and the prostitute who intimately expressed her love for Jesus is shown to be the follower.

Here, then, is the question you and I have to ask ourselves: Who am I most like in the story?

- When is the last time you had a moment with Jesus like this woman had?
- When's the last time you've poured yourself out before him?
- When's the last time tears streamed down your face as you expressed your love for him?
- When is the last time you expressed your love for him in reckless abandonment?