

# Neighbor[ing]

Love where you live.

## Part 6: The Art of Receiving

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### Luke 7:36-50

<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.

<sup>39</sup> 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."

**The trap of judgment says they are not like me**

**The warning of scripture:** "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. – Matthew 7:1-2

**"Jesus is really good at making awkward community work  
and working community awkward."**

**– Bob Hyatt**

<sup>40</sup> Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," he said.

<sup>41</sup> "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup> 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?"

<sup>43</sup> Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said. <sup>44</sup> Then he 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."

**The trap of pride says only I have something to offer**

**Paternalism** - the policy or practice on the part of people in positions of authority of restricting the freedom and responsibilities of those subordinate to them in the subordinates' supposed best interest.

**The warning of scripture:** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. – Philippians 2:3-4

### **Practical Help for Neighboring**

**If you're getting nowhere by offering help,  
have you considered asking for help?**

<sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

<sup>49</sup> The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

<sup>50</sup> Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

**The truth of scripture:** Only Jesus can offer salvation

**Application:** Humility and vulnerability are essential in the art of receiving

### **Next Steps**

If you don't already have a copy of the block map we've been providing, pick one up in the Commons today. It's a simple way to keep track of your neighbors' names. Check out last week's message and outline for neighboring "homework." You can find both at [ctk.church](http://ctk.church) or on the CTK App.

### **Small Group Questions**

- 1) What did you do in the sunshine last week? Did your neighbors come out of hibernation?
- 2) Read Luke 7:36-50 and think about the story from the perspective of Jesus, the woman and the Pharisee. What do they each receive? What do you receive from the story?
- 3) Do you struggle with asking for help? Why or why not? Read Philippians 2 again. What is scripture saying to you?
- 4) Do you struggle with judging people? Why or why not? Read Matthew 7 again. What is scripture saying to you?
- 5) How can you apply the story of Luke 7 to the command of Jesus to love your neighbor as yourself?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and during the coming week?