

## **“At the Heart of Giving: GRATITUDE”**

### **Luke 7:36-50**

#### **The STORY**

- Who? Simon, a Pharisee and a woman (a prostitute)
- Where? A dinner party for Jesus at Simon's house
- Action? The woman anoints Jesus' feet during the dinner

#### **A TEACHING OPPORTUNITY for JESUS**

1. He was a friend of sinners (36, 37)
  - The Pharisee and the Prostitute were at opposite ends of the social structure - both were sinners but only one admitted it!
2. He discerns the motives of both characters
  - He confronts Simon's hypocrisy (39-43)
  - He affirms the woman's gratitude (44-46)
3. He sees people as they are, not as the used to be (47)
4. He shows us that gratitude is at the Heart of Giving.
  - GRATITUDE connects FORGIVENESS and GIVING.
  - Extravagant GIVING is the natural result of FORGIVENESS
    - The more I experience forgiveness, the more I love
    - Quantity of sin and quality of sin is not the issue here  
BUT willingness to acknowledge all my sin.

#### **A PERSONAL STEWARDSHIP APPLICATION for 2010**

- I want to be able to give extravagantly to Jesus in gratitude for experiencing the freedom of His forgiveness in my life. He can use my time, my talents, my wealth to praise Him.
- My financial commitment to the church should not rely on guilt, manipulation or legalistic expectations but on the deep sense of gratitude to the Lord for His work in my life.
- I will allow the Holy Spirit to show me any area in my life that needs cleansing and forgiveness so that I can give extravagantly from my resources.