

GOD & VOCATION: SESSION THREE

PURPOSE

Welcome! We are meeting together to discover and discuss any connections we see between spirituality and vocation. Although our study will flow from a Christian worldview, we welcome perspectives from other faith and non-faith traditions. What we do with our bodies and our lives, our *vocation*, matters deeply. We will explore how our vocation can be a participation in God's work of renewing all things and how vocation is related to the career we are pursuing.

GATHERING [5 MINUTES]

- Which next step did you try after our last study?
- How did it go?
- What did you learn about yourself, humanity, or God?

WARM-UP [15 MINUTES]

Watch this video (7 minutes): [God and Vocation](#)

- What do you appreciate about this content?
- What do you disagree with? What makes you wonder?



SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION [20 MINUTES]

Today we will read about Jesus welcoming an outcast and elevating her as an example to one of the religious leaders. This comes from the account written by Luke, who tells the story of how God first invited the people of ancient Israel, and then all nations, to follow Jesus.

LUKE 7:35-50 (NLT)

³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. ³⁷ When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. ³⁸ Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting 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 what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!"

⁴⁰ Then Jesus answered his thoughts. “Simon,” he said to the Pharisee, “I have something to say to you.”

“Go ahead, Teacher,” Simon replied.

⁴¹ Then Jesus told him this story: “A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. ⁴² But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?”

⁴³ Simon answered, “I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt.”

“That’s right,” Jesus said. ⁴⁴ Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn’t offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You didn’t greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume.

⁴⁷ “I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.”

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to the woman, “Your sins are forgiven.”

⁴⁹ The men at the table said among themselves, “Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?”

⁵⁰ And Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What do you appreciate about this content?
- What makes you wonder?
- What do you disagree with?
- Jesus welcomed a woman who was rejected by the religious leaders and honored her socially uncomfortable behavior. What do you think Jesus saw in her that he wanted other people to see? How might this interaction have contributed to the renewal Jesus wanted to bring?
- Where do you see marginalized people in the context of your university/college and the career field you are heading toward? What might it look like for you to imitate Jesus?

NEXT STEPS (5 MINUTES)

Which next step could you take based on our discussion today?

Perspective – Consider that vocation includes being an embodied, loving presence everywhere you go, taking risks and acting boldly in ways that express what you think and believe. Think about how this aspect of a Christian worldview seems true or untrue from your perspective.

Engagement – How well have you been doing lately at being an embodied, loving presence among the people with whom you learn and work? How can you grow in this way of being, in practical ways? Make a plan and take the first step.

Investment – Find a place to volunteer your time for community service. After you participate, reflect on what your embodied presence meant for you and those you served. Were your actions able to contribute to renewal? Why or why not?

HELP US MAKE THIS BETTER!
[PLEASE PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THIS STUDY](#)