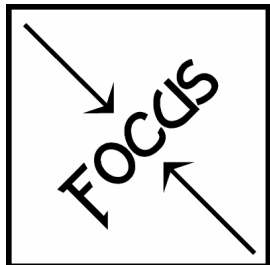


# The Greatest Story Ever Told

Sermon Study Guide for 12/16

## What Child Is This? (pt.3)

Luke 7



“Enemies!” That is how the apostle Paul describes our relationship with God in Romans 5. Let’s face it—the entrance of sin into this world destroyed our relationship with God in so many ways. We daily sin against Him—sometimes by what we do, sometimes by not doing what we should have done. Sin also warps our understanding of who God really is. We don’t really grasp how different a holy God is compared to unholy people. We tend to think we are pretty close to God, when the truth is we are very far away. This is why we needed a reconciler. Someone who could bring together God and man—who could remove the barrier of sin and give to us the gift of holiness.

That is why Jesus’ title “Immanuel” is so special. It means “God with us”.

### Optional Readings (for those who want to dig a little deeper)

Hebrews 1

A great look at the humanity of Christ



### TIME IN THE WORD

#### READ & OBSERVE

Write down anything you find interesting or unique about Luke 7:36-50

### ANSWER

**Ponder at the start.** Jesus offered forgiveness to many during His days here on earth. What kind of person do you think had the hardest times coming to Jesus to be forgiven? Why?

### Luke 7:36-38 (the setting)

Describe the scene. What is going on in this story and what parts of it seem a little strange and out of place?

The fact that Jesus is dining at the house of a Pharisee tells you what about His relationship with this group?

What do we know about the woman who entered? What do you think she did to earn the title “immoral woman”?

### **Luke 7:39 (the conflict)**

What was the problem that the Pharisee had with Jesus' response to the woman? Who did he voice this concern to?

### **Luke 7:40-47 (the teachable moment)**

Jesus tells a parable. What is it about, and what is the main point of it?

In the context of this dinner, what is Jesus trying to impress upon the Pharisee? How does he (ie. the Pharisee) see himself as compared to this woman? How does Jesus challenge that view?

Jesus then compares the actions of both the Pharisee and the woman. What does He say about each, and what does He conclude about the woman in verse 47?

### **Luke 7:48-50 (the closing)**

How does Jesus bring this evening to a close? As the woman leaves, describe the spiritual condition of those still at the table. Who is living a "reconciled" life with God?



### **TIME FOR THE HEART**

One lesson that we learn in this account, is that the amount of sins we have committed isn't the issue—it is the heart with which we acknowledge our sins. The "immoral" lady knew she was sinner and her repentant heart showed it. What about you this Christmas season? Are you at a place where you need to experience the forgiveness that only Jesus can offer? Take some time to get honest with the Lord. Confess your sin to Him, and trust that He will forgive you just as surely as He forgave the "immoral" woman.



### **Time for my world**

It is time to add feet to our prayers. As you enter this holiday season, it is time to think about the "invite". Whether it is to your house for a meal, to church for Christmas eve, or ????????—this is a great time to bring Christ right into Christmas in the lives of folks who often never even think of Him during His season. **And remember today's study—there is no sinner whose sin is too great for God to deal with!**