

# *Jesus, Gender & Sexuality*

Week 2: Jesus and  
Sexual Sinners – Like Me





# Jesus, Gender and Sexuality

- Question time after the service each week:
  - You can put your hand up ...
  - ... or ask a question at [slido.com](https://www.slido.com), #872255
  - Grab a coffee and come along – we will aim to start 5-10 minutes after the service ends.
- Aggressive questions will not be tolerated; arrogant questions will receive short shrift!
- Feedback, in person (preferably) or by email will be welcomed.



## Week 2: Jesus and Sexual Sinners Like Me

- Simon, the sinner and the Saviour (Lk 7.36-50)
  - Simon the seeker? No hint of a trap!
  - So, a generous, semi-public meal to find out more.
- The woman (*not* Mary Magdalene; cf. 8.2)
  - She “had lived a sinful life in that town.”
  - Weeping, kissing, anointing ...
- He said to *himself*, “If ... a prophet ...”
- Jesus answered his *thoughts*: a prophet indeed!



## Week 2: Jesus and Sexual Sinners Like Me

- The parable of the money-lender:
  - One owed 500, one 50: both debts are cancelled.
  - “Sin” is equated to “debt”: God is the money-lender.
  - Love cancels the debts (forgives the sins) of both.
  - Greater grace leads to greater love.
- A convicting contrast:
  - No water, kiss or oil from Simon – no costly love.
  - Tears, kissing and anointing – all for his feet – here is humble, grateful, costly love for Jesus.



## Week 2: Jesus and Sexual Sinners Like Me

- “Therefore . . .”
  - This follows the parable: she is not forgiven *because* she loved. Rather, she loves because she *has* been forgiven.
  - So, “I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven – for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.”
- “Who is this who even forgives sins?”
  - To the woman: “Your sins are forgiven. . . . Your *faith* has saved you; go in peace.”



## Week 2: Jesus and Sexual Sinners Like Me

- Last week:
  - We have questions – we come to Jesus for answers, listening to his word that we may obey (week 1).
- Today:
  - Sexual sin is real, and *condemning*.
  - Jesus’ grace is greater, and *forgiving*.
  - When we receive his grace, it is *transforming*.
    - “‘neither do I condemn you,’ Jesus declared. ‘*Go now and leave your life of sin.*’” (‘John’ 8.11)



## Week 2: Jesus and Sexual Sinners Like Me

- Sexual Sinners Like Me
  - “... all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”  
(Romans 3.23-4)
- As David confesses his adultery, he looks deeper:
  - “Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.” (Psalm 51.5)
  - Beware confidence in your own righteousness!



## Week 2: Jesus and Sexual Sinners Like Me

- “The sins of some men are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them.” (1 Timothy 5.24)
  - Consider people arriving at St John’s:
    - The unmarried pregnant woman’s sin is *probably* obvious; the porn-addled man’s sins may not be.
    - The outwardly respectable appearance of a married couple might cloak all sorts of selfishness and sin; the gay couple might be here because they sense the Lord calling them to himself for the first time.





# Week 2: Jesus and Sexual Sinners Like Me

- The Sermon on the Mount
  - “You have heard . . . but I tell you.”
  - Two of his six ethical intensifications concern sex
    - “I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Matthew 5.28)
    - “... anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.” (v32)



## Week 2: Jesus and Sexual Sinners Like Me

- It is not that godliness is impossible ...
  - “I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.” (Job 31.1)
- ... but that sin is universal. But why?
  - “From within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, *sexual immorality*, theft, murder, *adultery*, greed, malice, deceit, *lewdness*, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man ‘unclean’.”  
(Mark 7.21-23)



## Week 2: Jesus and Sexual Sinners Like Me

- Approaching questions of gender and sexuality:
  - Remember who hears this: “Your sins are forgiven. ... Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”
  - The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18.9-14):
    - We do not pray, “God, I thank you that I am not like other men ... *adulterers* or ... this tax collector.”
    - Instead, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”
    - Jesus said, “This man, rather than the other, went home justified before God.”



## Week 2: Jesus and Sexual Sinners Like Me

- Approaching questions of gender and sexuality:
  - We will not be those who deny or minimise the reality of sin – as though God’s word has changed.
  - Neither will we be those who cast stones or sit in judgement – as though we were without sin.
  - Instead, let us tell a better story: my sins deserve the judgement of hell, but my Saviour forgave me. You too can hear the words, “yours sins are forgiven, your faith has saved you, go in peace.”



## Week 2: Jesus and Sexual Sinners Like Me

- What does it look like to “go in peace”?
  - What would this “sinful woman’s” life be from this point as she joined the church?
- How does God’s grace transform us?
  1. We have a calling from God
  2. We have a battle to fight
  3. We have a teacher to train us
  4. We have a remedy when we fall



# 1. We have a calling from God (1 Thessalonians 4)

“<sup>3</sup> It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; <sup>4</sup> that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honourable, <sup>5</sup> not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; <sup>6</sup> ... The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. <sup>7</sup> For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. <sup>8</sup> Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.” (1 Thessalonians 4)



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## 2. We have a battle to fight (Romans 6-7)

“6.12 do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. . . .

7.15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. . . .<sup>18</sup>  
I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.<sup>19</sup> For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing.”



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### **3. We have a teacher to train us (Titus 2)**

“<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. <sup>12</sup> It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.” (Titus 2)



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## 4. We have a remedy when we fall (1 John 1-2)

- Three destructive lies:
  - Sin doesn't affect my relationship to God (1.6)
    - “If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.”
  - Sin is other people's problem (1.8)
    - “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”
  - Sin can be redefined as we see fit (1.10)
    - “If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.”



## 4. We have a remedy when we fall (1 John 1-2)

- Three saving truths:
  - Jesus' death alone can save *us* (1.7)
    - “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”
  - We confess, he forgives – every time (1.9)
    - “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”



## 4. We have a remedy when we fall (1 John 1-2)

- Three saving truths:
  - We have a gospel to proclaim! (2.1-2)
    - “My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, *and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*”



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