

# Our Story Faith Study

## Session 4: The Danger of a Single Story

### Additional Resource

#### **Illumination from *The Saint John's Bible: Dinner at the Pharisee's House***

**Luke 7:36-50**

**Donald Jackson, artist**

#### *Options for Viewing:*

- See the illumination in the “additional resources” on the *Our Story* webpage: [www.incarnationmn.org/our-story/](http://www.incarnationmn.org/our-story/).
- Watch a visual meditation of the illumination on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luK3iqsD62U>.
- View the illumination in *The Saint John's Bible, Heritage Edition*, in the Incarnation Chapel.

*With one or two other people (or individually), reflect on the illumination of Dinner at the Pharisee's House.*

- Recall or re-read the story of the dinner at the Pharisee's house in Luke 7:36-50 (below).
- Take a moment to reflect silently on the illumination (using either viewing option).
- What from the illumination speaks to you today? What do you notice?
- Together, share what you are seeing and thinking about the Bible text and the illumination.
- What general differences do you see between the woman on the left and the Pharisee's house on the right?
- What might cause the Pharisee to have a single story about the woman? What suggests more than a single story?
- The woman on the left almost blends into the background, perhaps not wanting to be seen or not fully seen by the others. Who is invisible in your life?

*Luke 7:36-50 (NRSV)*

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "

A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."