

# Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

## Close Encounters - Part 2

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### Introduction

After encountering Jesus, many of His followers are moved to give up their old lifestyle and follow a new life with Jesus at the centre. This was certainly true for the woman who brought the alabaster jar and anointed Jesus. After an initial encounter with Him, our challenge as believers is to let Jesus through the Holy Spirit continue to change and transform us in every living moment. As we submit to Him daily, we become more like Him and more obedient to His calling on our lives.

**Read:** Luke 7:36-50

### Discuss:

1. What is a Christian? What traits do you believe a Christian should have? Do you reflect these traits?
2. Have you ever had your "Sacrificial Threshold" tested by Jesus as to how much of your time, energy, money, or resources you were willing to give up for Him? Share this with the group.
3. Read Luke 7:36-50 out loud twice, using two different Bible versions, then retell the story aloud in your own words. What stood out to you in this story? Why?
4. Read verse 44. What was Jesus saying to Simon when He asked, "Do you see this woman"? Of whom is Jesus asking you, "Do you see this person"? What can you do about this question from Jesus?
5. Pastor Ben quoted that, "proximity breeds empathy, distance breeds suspicion". Where have you seen this happen? What can we do to change this? Who do you need to be closer to, in order to gain a different perspective on their life?

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6. Read verse 47. What does this verse say to you? Why could this be hard to accept for some people?
7. Read verse 50. What does it mean to be saved by faith? Why was this important for the woman to hear? Whom do you need to tell this to?

### **Respond**

A true encounter with Jesus will change our life forever. From this time on, we should see and interact with the world around us differently to those who are yet to meet Jesus. Pastor Ben suggested we may evaluate our Christian priorities and values by looking at where we spend our time and money in a week, and consider how this aligns with our proclaimed Christian faith.

What is one thing you could change this week to better align your time and finances with your values as a disciple of Jesus? Commit to making the change this week.