

**Sermon Summary**  
**4<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost**  
**16<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

- This is a passage to which we often do violence.
- It tends to get pulled and taken out of place to be inserted in compilations of passages used to describe Mary Magdalene, or assumed to have the same purpose.
- John 12 uses a similar anointing by Mary of Bethany to indicate Jesus' death, but those themes are not part of Luke's version.
- Luke uses this passage to talk about how people respond to Jesus forgiving sins.
- The passage, incidentally, also shows that we should not think Jesus and the Pharisees were arch-enemies. Arch-enemies rarely eat each other to dinner, especially when they have Pharisaic concerns about eating and purity.
- It is worth putting ourselves in the place of the Pharisee and seeing how the dialogue might affect us from this place.
- I find this a challenge because when I usually do this kind of exercise, I put myself as some kind of neutral observer, rarely the one in the dialogue.
- If we follow this line, we see ourselves as Jesus' host.
- We also then come in for criticism, for taking him for granted.
- All the things which Jesus asks of Simon were the conventions of hospitality. Simon is shown to be one who has welcomed Jesus, but not actually observed the niceties.
- Simon has taken God for granted, despite his Pharisaic rigor.
- Placing ourselves in Simon's position puts the same challenge to us.
- Have we neglected to do what a response to God asks as a matter of form?
- Have we slipped from our former enthusiasm, devotion or discipline to a point where we too are in danger of taking God for granted?

16 June 2013