WHO'S THAT?

Elementary Week 3

PARENT BIBLE STUDY Read: Luke 7:36-50; Isaiah 61:1-2

Each week of this series tells a different story about Jesus, the Savior God promised in Isaiah 61. We see a Jesus who was angry about injustice. We meet a Jesus who healed a woman's broken heart. We see a Jesus that came to set us free from whatever holds us. And we see a Jesus powerful enough to defeat death and bring life everlasting. We see Isaiah's words from years ago become flesh in Jesus.

"... He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted ...," Isaiah 61:1.

Luke described the woman who kissed and anointed Jesus' feet as a "woman who had lived a sinful life." She was broken and weary and her shame weighed heavily. When we're honest, that's every single one of us. But Simon wasn't honest. He didn't see himself as a man who had lived a sinful life, so he looked down on the woman and viewed what she did as offensive. Jesus didn't correct Simon when he said the woman was a sinner, but he also gave Simon a clear message through his story about debt forgiveness: only a heart that admits it is broken can be healed. If we don't think we need grace (healing, forgiveness, mercy, etc.), then we can't really receive it, can we? That is Jesus' point. The woman was totally broken, but that was sacred space where Jesus met her, forgave her, and gave her new life. Jesus forgave this woman not because of her actions, but because of her faith (v. 50). This woman knew that if anyone could make her whole again, it was Jesus, and she was willing to lay every piece of her pride aside to accept his grace ... a grace that was greater than all her sin ... a grace that healed her.

Simon lived under the illusion that he wasn't sinful or that his sin was somehow less offensive than the sin of the woman in this story. In what ways might you be doing the same?

How might being in a place of total brokenness help you see the real redemptive power of Jesus and love him more?