Avon Grove Church OF THE NAZARENE

"Living out the mission of Jesus – together."

Sermon Discussion Guide
9/13/2026

Sermon: Clear the Way "*The Stone of Brokenness*"
Text: *Luke 7:36-50*

🌿 **Introduction:** The woman in Luke 7 comes into the room knowing her reputation, yet she moves toward Jesus rather than away from Him.

What do you think makes it difficult for people to bring their brokenness honestly into the presence of Jesus? As you think about your own life, which is easier for you: admitting that you are hurting, or admitting that you need help?

What Are We Carrying?

The message described brokenness as something that can come from our own sin, from what others have done to us, or from a mixture of both. It also suggested that something we carry long enough can begin to shape how we see ourselves.

What is the difference between experiencing a wound and allowing that wound to become part of our identity?

Think about the statement: "**Something that happened to us can begin to shape who we are.**"

Where do you see that happen in people's lives? Where can you see the danger of allowing it to happen in your own?

What are some ways people learn to "function" while carrying something that God may be asking them to surrender?

Simon's Stone:

Simon has a stone too; his brokenness is simply less visible. Pride, judgment, self-righteousness, and an inability to recognize his own need for grace become his obstacle.

Why do you think it can be easier to recognize brokenness in someone else than in ourselves?

Consider this question: "**Am I more aware of what someone else needs to surrender than what God is asking me to surrender?**"

What are some signs that a person's hurt has turned into judgment, bitterness, defensiveness, or self-righteousness?

How might that happen within a church family?

Forgiveness And Freedom:

Forgiveness releases the debt into God's hands rather than allowing another person's actions to continue controlling our hearts. Yet, receiving God's forgiveness can be difficult when we continue defining ourselves by our past.

Consider this statement: **"I cannot change what happened, but I don't want what happened to continue controlling my heart."**

What is the difference between forgiveness and pretending that what happened was okay?

Why can forgiveness sometimes be more about our freedom than about what the other person deserves?

What does it look like to genuinely receive God's forgiveness rather than simply believing, intellectually, that God forgives us?

Restored For A Purpose:

The woman in Luke 7 does not simply leave forgiven, she leaves with a new relationship with Jesus and a new direction. Restoration is part of discipleship: Restored people become disciples, and disciples become people God can use to help others discover the same grace they have received.

How does God's restoration change more than simply the way we feel about our past?

What might God want to do **through** an area He is healing **in** you? How could your experience of God's grace help you become more compassionate, available, or useful to someone else?

Bringing It Home:

What are the people closest to us learning from the way we handle our own brokenness?

What would it communicate to your family if they saw you honestly bring hurt, disappointment, failure, or conflict to Jesus?

Personal Response:

What am I carrying that Jesus may be asking me to release?

What is one step of response God may be asking me to take?

🗣️ **Close in prayer: Clear the way in us, Lord, and prepare us for what You want to do. Amen.**