



EPISODE TITLE: “The Hooker Who Showed Great Love”

Hookers, Looters and Cheats, Episode 1

**Featured Guest:** *Jana Riess*

Since 2008, Jana Riess has been an acquisitions editor in the publishing industry, primarily acquiring in the areas of religion, history, popular culture, ethics, and biblical studies. From 1999 to 2008, she was the Religion Book Review Editor for Publishers Weekly, and continues to write freelance articles and reviews for PW as well as other publications. She holds degrees in religion from Wellesley College and Princeton Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. in American religious history from Columbia University. She speaks often to media about issues pertaining to religion in America, and has been interviewed by the Associated Press, Time, Newsweek, People, the Boston Globe, USA Today, the Los Angeles Times, and Newsday, among other print publications, as well as “Voice of America,” the “Today” show, MSNBC, and NPR’s “All Things Considered,” “Tell Me More,” and “Talk of the Nation.”

**Questions:**

1. What do we know about the people Jesus surrounded himself with? What does that say about him?
2. How do you think Jesus relates to us in our failures and imperfections?
3. What stood out for you from Luke 7:36-50?
4. If an ancient, alternate understanding of sin translates as “missing the mark,” what might that mean for us?
5. What might change if we become willing to move our targets farther away and risk missing the mark more often?

**Pneuma Divina Scripture: Luke 7:36-50**

36 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. <sup>37</sup>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. <sup>38</sup>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. <sup>39</sup>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.’ <sup>40</sup>Jesus spoke up and said to him, ‘Simon, I have something to say to you.’ ‘Teacher,’ he replied, ‘speak.’ <sup>41</sup>‘A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup>When they could not pay, he cancelled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?’ <sup>43</sup>Simon answered, ‘I suppose the one for whom he cancelled the greater debt.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘You have judged rightly.’ <sup>44</sup>Then turning towards 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. <sup>45</sup>You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. <sup>46</sup>You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. <sup>47</sup>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.’ <sup>48</sup>Then he said to her, ‘Your sins are forgiven.’ <sup>49</sup>But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, ‘Who is this who even forgives sins?’ <sup>50</sup>And he said to the woman, ‘Your faith has saved you; go in peace.’

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