

*"Seeing the Best, Even in a Sinner"* based on Luke 7:36-8:3

Quote from FDR regarding 'fear' as nation faced the great depression. What is it that gives some the ability to look at a situation and rightly size it up? It seems to be a kind of gift!

- A woman comes into a dinner party, a known sinner, and tends to him
- Simon, the Pharisee, sizes up the situation. She is a sinner, and Jesus does not turn her away.
- But, Jesus knew her character, and granted her acceptance, or forgiveness.

We are challenged to honestly 'size up' situations, look beyond them, and be able to bring a grace-filled word to that situation.

- Must be honest and recognize 'sin'. Jesus recognized her sinfulness, but also recognized her desire for forgiveness.
- The need for forgiveness leads to thanks, and often, the greater the 'sin', the more thanks that will be given. Sometimes those that don't need as much forgiveness become complacent and self-righteous.
- Life is meant to be up-building, encouraging, growing in God's eyes. We, as Christians, need to use those opportunities to grow in that direction. Jesus came not to condemn the world, but that all might have life!

Closing story of woman and box of cookies. Complainant is often the offending party. It's okay to recognize what's wrong, but then we need to encourage what is right by not being so self-righteous, but rather being self-giving!