

# Luke 7:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

## Analysis

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Jesus addresses unspoken criticism: 'And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee' (Greek 'Simon, echō soi ti eipein'). Though Simon spoke only mentally, Jesus responds, demonstrating prophetic knowledge the Pharisee doubted. The formal address 'Simon' and courteous request permission to speak show respect despite addressing criticism. Simon's reply 'Master, say on' (Greek 'Didaskale, eipe') grants permission. The title 'Didaskale' (teacher) acknowledges Jesus's authority while maintaining distance—not personal discipleship language. Reformed theology observes Jesus's method—gentle confrontation through parable rather than direct accusation. Proverbs 15:1 states 'A soft answer turneth away wrath.' Jesus's wisdom appears in how He addresses error—firmly yet graciously, using illustration to enable self-discovery of truth.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern courtesy required indirect communication, especially when addressing error. Direct confrontation brought shame; parables enabled learning without public humiliation. Rabbis frequently taught through questions and stories. Jesus's method—asking permission, using parable—follows these norms while subverting assumptions. The name 'Simon' without honorific contrasts with the woman's honor-bringing actions. Early church adopted Jesus's model—speaking truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), correcting opponents with gentleness (2 Timothy 2:25).

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus's respectful yet firm approach to Simon model appropriate correction of error?
2. What is the value of using parables or illustrations rather than direct confrontation when addressing error?
3. How can we develop wisdom to know when direct rebuke versus gentle illustration is appropriate?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	ἀποκριθεὶς	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	εἶπέ	πρὸς	αὐτόν	Σίμων	ἔχω
<b>And</b>	<b>answering</b>	G3588	<b>Jesus</b>	<b>said</b>	<b>unto</b>	<b>him</b>	<b>Simon</b>	<b>I have</b>
G2532	G611		G2424	G2036	G4314	G846	G4613	G2192
σοί	τι	εἶπέ	ὁ	δέ	φησὶν	Διδάσκαλε	εἶπέ	
<b>unto thee</b>	<b>somewhat</b>	<b>said</b>	G3588	<b>And</b>	<b>he saith</b>	<b>Master</b>	<b>said</b>	
G4671	G5100	G2036	G1161	G5346	G1320	G2036		

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