



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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The Two Debtors!

Focus Verse: Luke 7:47 - Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

Lesson Text: Luke 7:36-50

Truth About God: God forgives our sins.

Truth For My Life: I will express my love for Jesus because He forgives my sins.

The parable of the debtors, a man loaned money to two people—five hundred pieces of silver to one, fifty pieces of silver to another. Unfortunately, none of them could pay their creditor back. The debtors knew what that meant, unpaid debt carried the threat of prison. However, their creditor freely forgave them both and canceled their debts. Then Jesus asked, “Simon, which of the debtors do you think love him more after that?” Simon answered, “I suppose the one whose larger debt was forgiven.” Jesus nodded, “You’re right, Simon.”

Jesus turned to the weeping woman who was still pouring perfume on Him and kissing His feet. He informed Simon that when he came into his house, he never washed Jesus' dusty feet or greeted Him with a kiss or anointed His head with oil. However, Simon, this woman has flooded my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair, has not stopped kissing my feet and brought a beautiful alabaster box and expensive perfume, she poured it all over my feet. This woman was a sinner and showed an act of love towards Jesus. Jesus told Simon, “Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little” (Luke 7:47).

Romans 3:23 says it as succinctly as possible, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” **All of us, even the best of us, have sinned.** Truth be told, all of us still sin (1 John 1). That is never a license to sin, but it is a sobering reminder that we have no share in self-righteousness. Without the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we are no better than the worst sinner our sanctified minds may think of. All our sins forged the same hammer that nailed Jesus to the cross. While the human consequences of sin may be different, only the imputed righteousness of Jesus takes care of the eternal consequences of sin. All have sinned, and sin separates us from God. We all need to repent and get right with God. It is being born again, regenerated by the transforming work of the Spirit, that brings us into covenant with God (Ephesians 2). That is our only hope for forgiveness.

No sin is too big for God to forgive. If you wrecked your life and others, God still wants to forgive you. And He will freely forgive you if you repent. We do not need to beg God because God wants to forgive us and free us from guilt. That is one of the main reasons He came from Heaven to Earth to give His life on Calvary. He came to freely forgive.

When we realize how much we have been forgiven, it will show up in how we worship Jesus and love Him. When we realize the depth of the pit from which we were dug, it will show in the depth of our devotion to Him. If we could ask this woman from Luke 7, she would tell us that wholehearted worship is rarely, if ever, prescribed or pretty. But it is worship. And worship is the only right response to Jesus for the forgiveness He has shown to us.

Jesus has given **all of us** the greatest gift any of us could ever receive. He has given us the gift of forgiveness, even the gift of salvation. A simple thank you card does not seem sufficient. Neither does an hour on Sunday to sing a few songs and listen to a sermon. We will reflect the depth of our gratitude to God for His love through our worship. Let us give God wholehearted worship and thanks for all He has done for us. Let us live our lives to love the one who gave His life to love us.

When we worship greatly, we remember that we have been forgiven greatly. When we worship little, perhaps we think we have only been forgiven little. But we have been forgiven of much more and given much more than we truly know. May this parable of these two debtors and the stark contrast between self-righteous Simon and the once sinful, now worshiping woman teach us that all of us have sinned, all of us have been forgiven, and all of us should live all our lives to love and worship Jesus.