

THE TABLE - A Place for Forgiveness

September 18, 2022 Luke 7:36-50

OPENING QUESTION

Have you ever had a significant debt forgiven? How much was it? Have you ever forgiven someone else's debt to you? How much was it?

ENTER FORGIVENESS - Luke 7:36-38

- Jesus ate with tax collectors last week, this week he's eating with Simon the Pharisee's house, no doubt with other Pharisees present.
- Although Simon was a Pharisee, he apparently was willing to hear more about Jesus.
- The woman who came in to see Jesus was a *sinner*, a word the Pharisees used to categorize unclean people - tax collectors, tanners, camel drivers, custom collectors, prostitutes, etc.
- Humbly entering into a place to receive forgiveness is always going to take boldness and it is always going to be uncomfortable.
- At the table of Jesus, social convention is thrown out of the window; forgiveness and love set new standards and raise new expectations; human beings appear, not as society has 'constructed' them, but as God sees them.
- The woman intends, it seems, to anoint Jesus; we learn that this is an expression of grateful love because she has received God's overflowing forgiveness; but when she finds herself before him she is overcome with emotion, and his feet are wet with her tears before she can get the ointment jar open.

Why are people often reluctant to approach Jesus for forgiveness? Why does it take boldness to confess our sin to Him, ask forgiveness, and repent?

EXPERIENCE FORGIVENESS - Luke 7:39-43

- Simon has heard rumors that Jesus is a prophet, but thinks if He were a prophet, He would know that this woman is a sinner and would not interact with her. But Jesus addresses Simon's thoughts.
- Jesus tells a parable - an earthly story with a Kingdom meaning - to illustrate the forgiveness of the debt of sin.
- Both men are forgiven, but one of them is forgiven more.
- Simon, the Pharisee thought only the sinful woman needed forgiveness, but didn't think she deserved it because he didn't recognize he needed forgiveness as well.
- We can't experience forgiveness if we do not recognize our need for it.

Like the woman, do you recognize your need for forgiveness and how your debt is paid through the blood of Jesus, or do you find yourself like Simon, that you're not as bad as other people and are fine without it?

EXTEND FORGIVENESS - Luke 7:44-50

- When we look closer at the detail of the story, one of the things we notice is the way in which Jesus turns the tables on the Pharisee. *He* is the one who is guilty of poor hospitality—almost as much of a social blunder as the woman's letting down of her hair.
- Jesus is doing this because the issue is this: Simon, the Pharisee has never come to terms with the depths of his own heart, and so doesn't appreciate God's generous love when it sits in person at his own table.
- The table of Jesus is not only about experiencing forgiveness, but once we receive it, we are to extend forgiveness to others.
- We will never extend forgiveness if we do not recognize our need for it.
- If you truly have experienced the forgiveness of Christ at His table and are no longer walking around in guilt and shame, then you have no problem going to the table to extend forgiveness to others.

Do you find yourself having a difficult time forgiving others? Could it be that you don't truly believe that Jesus has forgiven you? **Only Jesus can forgive sins. We all are sinners. We need our debts cancelled, and need to cancel the debts others have against us.**



CLOSING QUESTIONS

Hear

What are some things that stood out to you in this week's sermon and Scriptures?

Obey

Have you experienced forgiveness of sin through Jesus? Can you forgive others because you have been forgiven? Who around needs Jesus's forgiveness? Who around you needs your forgiveness?

Pray

Pray for God to show you someone to invite to your table and Jesus's table. Is there really anyone God would not invite to the Kingdom table? Who can you pray for this week?