

Week 1 - Forgiveness: The two debtors

Reading: *Luke 7:36-43*

Forgiveness is necessary to be forgiven – the only thing repeated in the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:12,14,15)

We MUST learn how to forgive – it does NOT come naturally!

At some point in your life someone will hurt you deeply and you will need to forgive them!

1. Intro: Time and Place of Parable

This account is considered by many commentators to be the same as that in Mt 26:6, Mr 14:3; and Joh 12:3.

Detail	Matthew 26 & Mark 14	John 12	Luke 7
Host	Simon the Leper	Martha served	Simon “the Pharisee”
Woman	A woman	Mary	A woman (a sinner)
Location	Bethany (near Jerusalem)	Bethany (near Jerusalem)	near Nain (Galilee)
Time	2 days before his death	6 days before his death	Earlier in Ministry (before his transfiguration)
Misc	Oil on Jesus’ head Disciples murmur Alabaster Box No parable told	Oil on Jesus’ feet Wiped with hair Judas complains Lazarus there No parable told	Oil on Jesus’ feet and Tears wash feet Dried feet with hair Kissed his feet Alabaster Box used Parable told

1. Simon ‘the Pharisee’: (colour in ‘the Pharisee’ in your Bible) v. 36-39

He invited Jesus to dine with him, and the Lord accepted the invitation.

But Simon was he was not a disciple of Jesus (see vs 39)

Neglected to extend to Jesus the courtesies normally paid to visitors.

Focused on externals:

- judged woman based on her reputation not her current action
- judged Jesus because he allowed the woman to touch him!

Antidote for this attitude: Philippians 2:3-4 – esteem others better than self

2. The Woman: (“a sinner” & a woman OF the city!)

She was called ‘a sinner’ or ‘**the** sinner’.

Let us not be too hasty to judge her character based on the evaluation of others!

Hers was no “show”

- ‘weeping’ = to sob, wail aloud (to cry silently is a different word in Greek) (Luke 6:21,25)
- ‘wash’ = to moisten (especially by a shower):--(send) rain, wash.
- ‘kissed’ = to kiss earnestly (Father of prodigal son, Ephesians for Paul)

She understood who Jesus was, what he was about to accomplish and the impact that would have on her!!

She shows ADUNDANT Love!! Extravagant Love!! WHY??? Simon could not relate to her in any way!!

3. The Parable (only in Luke) v. 40-43

Keys to the Parable:

- the relative ‘size’ of the debt was significant
- **BOTH** debtors were unable to pay!
- **BOTH** debtors were freely forgiven all.
- the relative ‘size’ of the response was also significant!

The parable was Christ’s way of answering Simon’s thought “IF this man was a prophet!”

- Jesus did KNOW the woman!
- And he knew Simon too – better than Simon knew himself!
- Jesus knew why the woman was there, and what Simon thought about it.

Jesus turns the tables on Simon and does with him what Simon thought He should be doing with the woman – He reveals Simon’s unrepentant heart with the parable of the two debtors.

v. 44-50 There are **three questions** around which the parable revolves:

1. "Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?"
2. "Seest thou this woman?"
3. "Who is this that forgiveth sins also?"

Simon’s answers:

1. Simon admits that the one forgiven more would feel the most obligated and should love more.
2. Simon saw nothing but the woman's past reputation as a reckless, rejected, sleazy woman. Jesus saw one ‘born again’ – her actions declared her faith! Jam 2:17-18, 24, 26
3. Christ can forgive all who truly repent of their sins and turn to Him in faith. Once freed from sin's oppressive debt, we must show our gratitude to Him by living in holiness and loving service to others.

4. The Lesson - It is all about attitude!

Her actions of devotion were the **RESULT** of the forgiveness offered, not the **CAUSE** of it!
She acted in response to the forgiveness already offered in Christ! **She did not need to EARN forgiveness!**
See Psa. 130:3-4 – we fear God BECAUSE he forgives us, not to earn it!

Note: There was no verbalizing of an “I have sinned” from the woman! Jesus KNEW from what she was DOING that she was repentant! Actions were louder than words.

How about with us? Do we DEMAND an apology, or will we let someone SHOW us they are sorry?

Belief affects Attitude which affects Behaviour! Who are you more like? The Pharisee or the Sinner?

Simon was morally upright, but cold and conceited. He felt no *need* of a saviour.
He thought he was conferring an honour on Christ by supplying him with a morsel of bread.

The woman felt herself unworthy to anoint his head, but instead anointed his feet.
She had not come to eat, like the other guests, but to seek the Lord, to THANK him.

Do we truly appreciate all that was done for us?

Do we recognize that we owed 500 pence, or do we think that it was only 50 pence?

There is an easy way to obtain a true answer to that question, and it is not in words — it is revealed by our love in action

How will you show your love for Jesus??? By acting like him! By forgiving others!

We often hear people say “Jesus loves me!”, but how do they show they love Jesus!

Does Jesus feel loved by you?!

Conclusion:

Us forgiving not equal to God forgiving → that is between the offender and God

Us forgiving not equal to condoning the actions of the offender

Our offering of forgiveness does NOT depend on whether we think the other person is truly repentant!

Extending forgiveness does not mean you were wrong and the other person was right.

Extending forgiveness means you value doing the right thing more than being seen to be right!

Extending forgiveness means that you value a relationship more than you value your reputation.

Jesus says to each of us: Your faith (in my forgiveness of your sins) has saved you...go in peace