

You Can Begin Again

When You Receive Forgiveness

Pastor Derwin L. Gray – October 29, 2017

1. Open in corporate prayer:

“Abba, in Your Son Jesus, You have loved us. You have been gracious to us. You have forgiven us. May we respond to Your love, grace, and forgiveness by loving You back. In Jesus Name, Amen.”

2. Read Luke 7:36-40.

- a. Pastor Derwin said, “This is a story of an unrighteous, religious Pharisee and the unrighteous, irreligious prostitute.”
- b. The Pharisee would have known the entire Torah, which is the first five books of the Bible. He would have been religiously devout, practiced all of the Jewish festivals and paid his tithe. The word Pharisee meant, “separate ones.” There were about 5,000 to 7,000 Pharisees in Israel. They believed it was their job to keep Israel morally pure and committed to God. They took the Ten Commandments and turned them into 613 commandments. On the outside, this Pharisee looked great, but his heart was far from God.
- c. The woman “sinner” was a prostitute. She was a social and religious outcast. She would have no access or acceptance to the Temple or the Jewish Synagogue.
- d. Alabaster was a whitish-yellow stone which was named for the town in Egypt (Alabastron) in which it was developed. The perfume was very expensive. Women often carried this as a dowry around their necks on a chain. This may have been her “hope chest.” (Utlely, R. J. (2004). *The Gospel According to Luke* (Vol. 3A, Lk 7:37). Marshall, TX: Bible Lessons International).
- e. “These dinners were social events for the entire community. Although only invited guests ate, anyone was welcome to come and listen to the table conversation.” (Utlely, R. J. (2004). *The Gospel According to Luke* (Vol. 3A, Lk 7:36). Marshall, TX: Bible Lessons International.”
- f. As you read verses 36-39, what insights do you gain?

3. Read Luke 7:40-43.

- a. Pastor Derwin said, “The root of forgiveness is God’s great love and grace towards humanity (you).” Discuss the insights and implications of these verse that reveal the heart and character of Jesus.
- b. Note: The denarius was the usual daily wage for a laborer. A debt of 500 denarii was seemingly insurmountable. (Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). *Faithlife Study Bible* (Lk 7:41). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.)

4. Read Luke 7:43-47.

- a. Pastor Derwin said, "The fruit of receiving God's forgiveness is worship."
- b. There are several actions that Simon the Pharisee did not perform for Jesus that were expected of a host in Jewish culture: (1) he did not wash His feet when he entered, v. 44; (2) he did not give Him a kiss of greeting, v. 45; and (3) he did not anoint Him with oil, v. 46. (Utey, R. J. (2004). The Gospel According to Luke (Vol. Volume 3A, Lk 7:44-47). Marshall, TX: Bible Lessons International).
- c. In contrast, the sinner prostitute in response to Jesus' forgiveness, washed His feet with her tears and hair. She kissed His feet and she anointed His feet with expensive Alabaster perfume! She gave her most treasured possession to Jesus because He gave her forgiveness. Because she was forgiven much, she loved Jesus much. This is the essence of worship.
- d. Discuss the insights and applications you have from this passage.

5. Read Luke 7:48-50.

- a. Pastor Derwin said, "Jesus wants to forgive you. Jesus wants you to go in 'peace.' And Jesus is YHWH! Will you let him?"
 - Jesus wants to forgive us. And His forgiveness empowers us to go in peace with God. Going in peace with God embodies the idea of living in harmony with God, His kingdom ethics, and others.
 - Discuss the insights and applications you have.
- b. Read Mark 2:5-7 and Isaiah 43:25.
 - In light of Jesus forgiving sins, who did the Pharisee think Jesus was claiming to be?
- c. Read and close in prayer with 2 Corinthians 5:21.