



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Meet the Amazing Jesus Series

Lesson 42

Lesson Title: Be Forgiven Much

Take Home Point: Jesus can forgive much.

Warm-Up:

Imagine a doctor placing an advertisement that reads, "My name is Dr. Fumplepoint and I am here to help you! Everyone who is healthy is welcome to come to my office so we can discuss your good health and enjoy it together. Appointments not necessary. I will also make house calls to those who are well to reassure them of the benefits of good health. Please note that those who are suffering from illness or accident are requested to get better on their own prior to visiting or requesting a house call." Sounds pretty silly, doesn't it? What's the point of being a doctor if not to assist in healing the hurt and broken?

Read: Luke 7:36-50

Observation (What happened?):

Why did the Pharisee believe it was wrong for Jesus to let the woman touch him?

What did Jesus say to the woman in response to her demonstration of love and sorrow?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think the woman did specifically what she did?

Based on his words to Jesus, what was the Pharisee's opinion of himself?

Insight:

Has anyone ever said to you, "I can't forgive you," or "I won't forgive you?" Perhaps the words are never spoken, but actions speak louder than words. If you have heard these words or known their effect, you know their tremendous weight as they press down on heart and soul. You feel like a permanent failure, and a relationship is broken because of unforgiveness with its accompanying resentment and bitterness. Satan loves to use the lack of forgiveness to further lie and accuse. "You are no good," he whispers, "and never will be. That person can't forgive you because you are so awful. You are so awful and unlovable that even God can't love you." Too many people believe that outrageous lie, and live with feelings of worthlessness and inner despair. It is exactly to destroy that lie that Jesus lived, died, and rose again. Why else would he do it if not out of love for us? A sense of duty? Hardly. God owes us nothing. Pity? Pity would more likely cause God to put us out of our misery rather than rescue us. It is God's unfailing love that frees us from the slavery of sin and gives us worth now and through all eternity.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What is your attitude toward "sinners" in our world today? Is it closer to that of Jesus or the Pharisee?

When is the last time you thanked Jesus for forgiving you so much? Take a moment and thank him right now.

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