

“Forgiven Much”
Luke 7:36-50
Pastor John Miller

I. Introduction

- A. Three miracles are recorded in Luke 7
 - 1. A great miracle (the healing of the Centurion’s servant)
 - 2. A greater miracle (the raising of the widow’s son)
 - 3. The greatest miracle of all (the forgiving and restoring of a sinful woman)
- B. That God would freely forgive our sins is surely the greatest news ever made known to man
 - 1. Many are either ignorant of this truth or consider it irrelevant
 - 2. In our text today, we will learn some important facts about forgiveness (vv. 36-39)
 - a) Give background
 - b) Jesus gives a parable (vv. 40-43)
 - c) Then Jesus makes His point (vv. 44-50)
 - 3. What are the facts we learn about forgiveness?

II. We All Need Forgiveness

- A. A common debt (v. 41)
 - 1. They were both sinners
 - 2. Remember, there are different kinds of sins
 - a) Attitude sins
 - b) Action sins
 - 3. There are sins of omission as well as sins of commission (vv. 44-46)
 - 4. There are open sins and hidden sins
 - a) Everyone at the dinner knew the woman’s sin
 - b) Jesus knew Simon’s sin
 - c) “For all have sinned...” (Romans 3:23)
- B. A common insolvency (v. 42)
 - 1. “They had nothing to pay”

III. Forgiveness is the Gracious Gift of God (Luke 7:42)

- A. “He freely forgave them both” (v. 42)
 - 1. Grace is hard for people to understand
 - 2. “Love that reaches up is adoration; love that reaches across is affection; love the reaches down is grace” – Donald Gray Barnhouse
 - 3. “For by grace you are saved...” (Ephesians 2:8)

IV. Forgiveness is Received by Faith (Luke 7:50)

- A. “For by grace you have been saved through...” (Ephesians 2:8)
 - 1. The nature of faith

2. “Therefore being justified by faith...” (Romans 5:1)

V. Forgiveness is Certain (Luke 7:47-48)

- A. How can we be sure?
 1. Word of God
 - a) (John 3:16)
 2. Work of God
 - a) The cross
 - b) It is finished
 3. Witness of God
 - a) (Romans 8:16)
 4. Are you sure your sins have been forgiven?
 - a) You can be sure!

V. Forgiveness Results in a Changed Life

- A. She had a new love (v. 47)
 1. She was not ashamed to show her love (v. 38)
- B. She had a new peace (v. 50)
 1. “Go in peace” (v. 50)
 2. Peace with God
 3. The peace of God
 4. God’s grace transforms lives
 5. Sadly, Simon’s life was not changed
 6. He was blind and lacked understanding
 7. He misunderstood everything
 - a) The woman
 - b) Jesus
 - c) Himself