

The Heart of Forgiveness

Luke 7:36 - 50

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

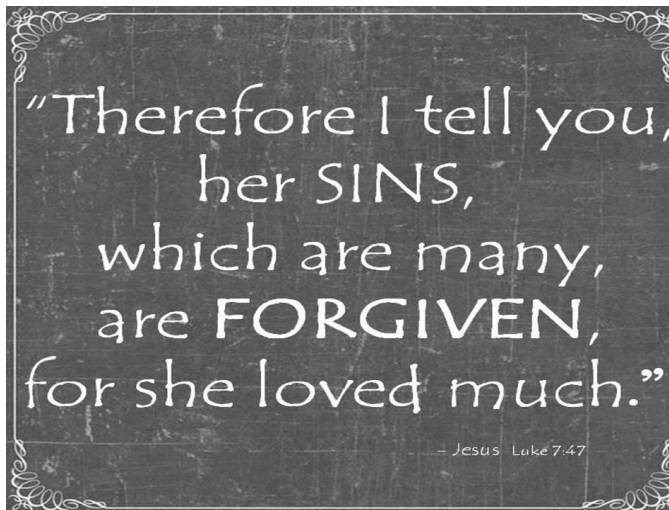
What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In Luke chapter 7 we have an account of a woman anointing Jesus' feet while He is at dinner with the Pharisees. The interaction seems strange over all. Why was the woman there? What is Jesus really teaching? At the end Jesus shares that she loves a great deal because she has been forgiven a great deal. This week we need to stop and remember how we have been forgiven. It is only when we remember the forgiveness that we have that we are able to love the Lord to the fullest. This passage is not about bad people being able to love God more, it is about us remembering His forgiveness in order for us to love more.



Jesus' Anointing

³⁶ Now one of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went into the Pharisee's house and took his place at the table. ³⁷ Then when a woman of that town, who was a sinner, learned that Jesus was dining at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfumed oil. ³⁸ As she stood behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. She wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with the perfumed oil. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ So Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." He replied, "Say it, Teacher." ⁴¹ "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed him five hundred silver coins, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay, he

canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled." Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴ Then, turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house. You gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss of greeting, but from the time I entered she has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfumed oil. ⁴⁷ Therefore I tell you, her sins, which were many, are forgiven, thus she loved much; but the one who is forgiven little loves little." ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.

3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. Why was the woman at the Pharisee's house?
9. Why did the woman anoint Jesus and cry at His feet?
10. Why did the Pharisee believe Jesus was not a prophet?

11. Are some people forgiven more than others? Is this Jesus' point?

12. What is the purpose of this passage? What is Jesus trying to communicate to the Pharisees and to us?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

13. When is it easy to see other people as needing more forgiveness than ourselves?

14. Some people have a fire and love for the Lord. What do they understand that causes them to love the Lord with such passion?

15. What will help us to love the Lord with greater passion?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...