

Forgive...

"Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little."

Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

~ Luke 7:41-48



Getting Started

Complete at least one the sentences below...

1. The "one thing" that I find most difficult to forgive is...
2. The time I was most thankful for forgiveness was...

In the Word

Read Luke 7:36-50

1. Who was invited to this dinner? Who would have been welcomed? Who would not have received an invitation? Why?
2. What do the thoughts of the Pharisee (7:39) suggest about the man? Who would you rather have at your dinner party? Honestly?
3. In this parable of the two debtors, what are some of the points Jesus is making about forgiveness (7:41-43)?

4. How would you describe Simon's answer to Jesus' question about who would love the moneylender more? What tone, if any, do you hear in his voice? What does that suggest to you about his attitude?
5. What is the significance of the actions of the woman vs. the inaction of Simon (7:44-47)?
6. What relationship is there between one's need for forgiveness and their love? In this sense, how does Simon compare to the woman? Who do more closely resemble?

Application

1. Would someone who needed forgiveness feel welcome at your dinner party? Attending your community group?
2. How can we guard against developing the attitude of Simon the Pharisee? How do people get to the point that they begin to believe their need for forgiveness is less than another's?
3. How is a person's relationship with God altered by her/his relationship with others? (You may wish to begin by looking at these passages: Matthew 5:23-24; 6:12-15)
4. Why can it be so difficult to forgive others? How can you, this week, work at forgiving someone who has wronged you? What can the members of this group do to help you in working through this forgiveness?