

# **FORGIVENESS**

**Luke 7:36-50; John 8:1-11**

By Rev. Dr. Jerry Schmoyer [jerry@schmoyer.net](mailto:jerry@schmoyer.net)  
<http://www.mainstreetbaptist.org/> - <http://india.mainstreetbaptist.org/>

**Little boy, rock/sling shot, kills g-mo pet duck, sister sees, makes work, finally confess, g-mo knew, waiting, forgives**

FORGIVENESS can be a hard thing to get hold of  
Pride keeps from asking God for it  
Fear keeps us from accepting it  
Insecurity keeps us from forgiving ourselves  
Jesus came to earth to forgive  
He forgave more than He healed or taught

## **I. RECEIVING FORGIVENESS** SINFUL WOMAN

SCENE: Galilee

Jesus just healed Centurion's servant close to death  
Next day stopped funeral procession, son to life  
Rumors about young Rabbi flying everywhere!  
Last time in town Jesus preached in synagogue  
Prostitutes, gangsters, etc came - converted!  
Rel rulers said too bad to be forgiven  
Simon (rel ruler) wanted to get to bottom of it all  
arranged dinner party to meet Jesus

**Luke 7:36** Meal started, everything going well  
unexpected guest -a woman (not allowed) -a prostitute

**Lk 7:37-38** eat in open courtyard, others watch, show off  
Recline on couches on side, eat with fingers  
Servant wash feet, dirty from walk, not done for Jesus  
slipped in and started washing His feet herself  
woman knew rejected, unwanted –she touched unclean  
love for Jesus greater!, wrong to neglect Him  
came to see Him, hear of His love, acceptance  
knelt with tears, showed her love of Him, He let her!

KNELT at Jesus' feet, He saw Her & smiled

God loves all **Ps. 103:8-14; Num 14:18**

Tears – guilt, love, shame, hurts

Hair always bound, down = immodest

Perfume – only resourced, around neck, expensive

**Lk 7:39** Assumed Jesus didn't know kind of a woman it was  
Jesus no prophet, certainly no Messiah!

1. Would know about the woman

2. Wouldn't let her touch Him. Unclean

Jesus knew all, what Simon thinking

**Lk 7:40-43a** BOTH debtors - neither could pay debt!

Woman - large debt; Simon - small debt, but still debtor  
both debts forgiven, new start - if ask humbly for it

-only woman has done so so far

**Lk 7:43b-478**

SIMON self-righteous, proud, didn't see self/sin as God saw  
WOMAN knew terrible sinner, humbled self for forgiveness  
most who followed Jesus terrible sinners

She did what Simon should have done!

JESUS TO SIMON "Simon, think better than this woman!

You're wrong, she's better than you!"

**Lk 7:48** She didn't ask for forgiveness, did she?

She certainly did! - before even anoint feet

Greek perfect tense: done awhile ago in past, results continue

NOT: forgiven because she washed & anointed

BUT: washed & anointed because she was forgiven!

Jesus just pointing out what had happened awhile ago!

HE paid for our sins on cross - forgiveness free & final

**God forgives & forgets, WHAT sin???**

God forgives sins **1 Jn 2:1-2, 12**

**Prairie fire, go in burnt over place**

**Lk 7:49** SIMON & others missed it

**Lk 7:50** Saved NOT by love, washing & anointing, etc  
BUT by faith in Him before entering

OTHERS would never accept her (you know how people are  
Jesus forgives & accepts her!  
Her record clean, as if she never sinned!!!!

## TRANSITION

Jesus always offering forgiveness

Jesus removes, gives freedom & grace

Another similar example happened shortly before crucifixion:

## **II. RESPONDING TO FORGIVENESS**

### THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY

Jesus in Jerusalem, cross near, RelRulers want to kill Him

Feast of Tabernacles (1 of 3x all men to Jeru)

Jesus went, into temple to teach, RelRul try to trap

### ***John 8:1-6a***

LAW: anyone caught in adultery was to be stoned

TRAP: KILL HER: people not like, want to return death penal

    Trouble with Rome, contradict own teachings

    NOT KILL HER: break God's law, not Messiah

BAIT: woman caught in adultery, flimsy tents everywhere

WOMAN: don't know, not a prostitute, husband gone a lot?

    Lonely, away from home, strange city

    Drink too much, stranger nice to her

MAN: let go - law said stone both!

    Rel rulers not interested in fairness

Put self in woman's place: wrong and sinful

    disheveled, not properly dressed or groomed

    embarrassed beyond words, totally humiliated

    Top men in all Israel and talk-of-the-town young Rabbi

    all gathered around her!

All eyes shift to Jesus?

What will He do?

How is He going to get out of this one?

**Jn 8:6b-8a** 'katagraphein' write a record against someone

Perhaps Jesus writing the names & sins of rel rul

THEY deserving of death, too!

If cast stone, God uses same standard them

**Jn 8:8b** "Without sin" can also mean "without sinful desire"

they just as lustful inside, just not do it/caught!

NOT: don't commit adultery - not all guilty

BUT: don't lust in heart - all are guilty!

Oldest more mature, better perspective

can't keep continually convincing self they're OK

knew best their own sinfulness

**Jn 8:9-11a** Noticed something different about this young Rabbi

SIN pointed out, wrong, not overlooked

SHE not rejected as person because of it

hated her sin, but not her!

**Jn 8:11b** NOT: "I forgive you" for she didn't ask for forgiveness

but not overlook her sin, either

gives her a chance to repent and believe on her own

"You have a choice: keep living as have been. Sin gets easier.

Or repent (change of mind & life) and believe^.

Ask for forgiveness.

Use second chance to live for God, not self."

**Soccer, score for other team, want to quit, must come do best**

Jesus stood up and talked to people still watching:

**John 8:12** Called woman & people out of darkness into light!

**Ps 32:5** *Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"-  
- and you forgave the guilt of my sin.*

*I Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

HOW DID THE STORY END?

What did the woman do with second chance?

Don't know - romantic in us says she believed.(????)

More important question: what about YOUR 2nd chance?

**SIMON:** Self-righteous, not see need for forgiveness?

Live by legalism, focus on others' sins

**RELIGIOUS RULERS:** know sinful too, walk away

**WOMAN IN ADULTERY:** met Jesus, get 2<sup>nd</sup> chance --

**PROSTITUTE:** See sin, no matter how bad, humble self for forgiveness and cleansed?