

Lessons About God's Forgiveness Luke 7:36-8:3

When you were dead in your sins . . . God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, . . . Colossians 2:13 (NIV)

The “woman who lived a sinful life” in Luke 7 provides the example from which we take **lessons about God's forgiveness**.

- **Lesson #1: GOD'S FORGIVENESS BEGINS WITH REPENTANCE.**

Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, ³⁸and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

Luke 7:36-38 (New International Version)

Repentance = a heartfelt sorrow for sin, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ.

. . . not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance . . . ¹⁰*Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation . . .* 2 Corinthians 7:9-10 (NIV)

“ . . . ¹⁹Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, . . .” Acts 3:19 (NIV)

- **Lesson #2: RELIGION SHIELDS US FROM GOD'S FORGIVENESS.**

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.” ⁴⁰Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.” “Tell me, teacher,” he said. Luke 7:39-40 (NIV)

. . . ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, . . . Romans 3:23 (NIV)

- **Lesson #3: WE UNDERESTIMATE THE DEPTH OF OUR NEED FOR GOD'S FORGIVENESS.**

“Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?” ⁴³Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled.” “You have judged correctly,” Jesus said. ⁴⁴Then 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. ⁴⁵You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Luke 7:41-46 (NIV)

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” Jeremiah 17:9 (New King James Version)

. . . the goodness of God leads you to repentance? ⁵But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God. Romans 2:4b-5 (NKJV)

- **Lesson #4: REPENTANCE AND FAITH GO TOGETHER AND LEAD US TO SALVATION.**

Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.” ⁴⁸Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” ⁴⁹The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” ⁵⁰Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” Luke 7:47-50 (NIV)

Faith = the knowledge of and belief in what Christ has done for you, coupled with a personal trust in Jesus to forgive your sins.

- **Lesson #5: RESPOND TO GOD'S FORGIVENESS WITH GENEROSITY AND GRATEFUL WORSHIP.**

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, ²and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; ³Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means. Luke 8:1-3 (NIV)