

“Faith, Forgiveness, and Love”

06-12-2016

All of our lessons this morning touch on the same theme. In each one of them we are faced with the facts of faith, sin, confession, forgiveness and love. Before we get to the story about the woman at the dinner at Simon’s house in the Gospel, let’s look at some things from the first two lessons. Go to 2 Samuel 11.

David was God’s choice to be the king of His people Israel. He wasn’t the person you would pick because he was the youngest, quietist brother. But when Samuel thought one of the other brothers would be a good choice, God said “no” He wanted David!

David was a good king and “*a man after God’s own heart*” because of his faith in doing what God asked. But David had one weakness and that was Bathsheba. When he saw her, he fell in love with her and didn’t care if she was someone else’s. Since he was the king, he really didn’t see that as a problem.

Look at verses 26-27, “*When the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, (David had him killed) she lamented over her husband. And when the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.*”

How many times are we just like David? **David Sinned**. No two ways about it! Look what happens when Nathan confronts his sin. Verses 13-14 of chapter 12, “*David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die.*” **David Confesses** and is **Forgiven**. But sin and murder have consequences!

Look at Galatians 3. Here, Paul looks at mankind and the way they look at Faith, Forgiveness, and Love. Because mankind in our world today is so far away from God, and goes its own way, the concepts of these things is way out of whack! I think we all could agree that mankind right now has **Faith in Nothing**. Mankind questions everything and sees wrong everywhere!

They feel that **Forgiveness comes from Works** they do! Verses 10-11, “*For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” All of this comes because Mankind has a **Love for Self!** They don’t see God as important or even necessary!*

Turn to Luke 7. The Gospel puts all the pieces of Faith, Forgiveness, and Love in front of us very clearly. The story contains people that show how and how not to relate to Jesus, and gives us a glimpse of what living a faithful life is all about. **Verses 36-38**, “*One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to*

wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.”

Even though Jesus has been invited by Simon the Pharisee to dinner, it seems as though Simon doesn't really care about Jesus at all or feel that Jesus is the Messiah they've all been waiting for.

Common courtesy for the day would have been that as soon as Jesus entered Simon's home, he would have been greeted with a kiss, His feet would have been washed and His head anointed with oil. But Simon didn't do any of that. He didn't make Jesus feel welcome at all.

In sharp contrast to Simon, a woman enters the room because she wants to find Jesus, who she had undoubtedly heard was a friend of sinners. And she was well qualified in that department. Our English translation doesn't convey the shock that the entrance of this woman made, when it says "*when a woman*" it's literally "*And look a woman!*" The shock was primarily because of this woman's reputation. The text tells us that she was a sinner. What kind of sinner we don't know, but everyone there knew about her!

Her desire is to find Jesus. It doesn't matter about the rest of the guests, all she wanted was to see Jesus. **She had Faith in Jesus.** This faith caused her to cry because of what she had done. As the water fell on Jesus' feet, and the precious ointment flowed over them, she didn't use a towel or cloth to wipe His feet, she used her own hair. This was a true action of confession and repentance. This woman did all the things Simon didn't! She honored and worshiped Jesus like Simon should have!

Look at what Jesus said about this in verses 44-48, "*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. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little."* And he said to her, "*Your sins are forgiven.*"

She received her **Forgiveness from Jesus.** It really doesn't matter what she did. This forgiveness led her to have true **Love For Jesus** and for all He'd done to change her life! Jesus ends this story by saying to her in Verse 50, "*Your faith has saved you; go in peace.*"

So after looking at these three lessons, where do you feel you are in relation to Faith, Forgiveness, and Love? First, do you realize and believe that you're **A Sinner**? You are, I am, we all are! We're all in need of humbly coming to Jesus and confessing our wrongs to Him, pleading for forgiveness.

Jesus' death on the cross makes your forgiveness possible. **You Are Forgiven!** He paid the price. He was the perfect sacrifice, the perfect Lamb that was slain for my sins and yours. Jesus' resurrection from the grave makes a new relationship with God possible. **You Are Restored!** If He had stayed in the grave, we would have no Savior, no eternal life, and no place in heaven!

All of us have rebelled against God, disobeyed Him, missed the mark, fallen short. But because we are forgiven, we can confess our sins, repent of our sins, and have our relationship with God restored!

Because of all Jesus has done for us, there also exists the possibility of restored relationships with others! Because we're forgiven, we're called to be forgivers! C. S. Lewis made this remark about Faith, Forgiveness and Love, *"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you!"*

Now is the time to step out of that spirit of unforgiveness, confess it to God, repent of it, and forgive those who have wronged you. "And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us". I guess this is kind of important to God!