



Luke 7:36-50 (NLT)  
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Your Sins Are Forgiven

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**When we encounter Jesus we experience the power of his forgiveness. We can either resist or receive forgiveness.**

As beautiful and wonderful as forgiveness can be, it can also be threatening and even offensive.

**We all agree that forgiveness is a beautiful idea until we have to practice it.**  
**C. S. Lewis**

There is always a choice for us when we encounter Jesus.

- We can be like Simon the Pharisee who resists Jesus' forgiveness
- Or we can be like this woman who receives Jesus' forgiveness and is profoundly changed.

**SIMON**- the choice to RESIST our need for forgiveness.

41 Then Jesus told him this story: "A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. 42 But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?"

Jesus calls us out both to challenge us but also to renew us. **CLEANSE—> HEAL.**

The more HONEST and willing we are to receive forgiveness the more our life will overflow with love and gratitude and forgiveness toward others.

We are all equally in need of forgiveness before God and others.

Romans 3:23 "All people are the same: 23 Everyone has sinned and fallen short of God's glorious standard,"

We all fall short-- sometimes we are willing to be honest and other times we choose to hide it. The beauty of forgiveness is that it frees us shame/ regret and heals broken relationships.

The challenge of forgiveness is that it requires we face our imperfections. We resist forgiveness because it means facing the things we hate most of ourself. We work hard to hide it behind our achievements and appearance.

**THE WOMAN**- the choice to RECEIVE our need for forgiveness.

44 Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Look at this woman kneeling here... 47 “I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.” 48 Then Jesus said to the woman, “Your sins are forgiven. 49 The men at the table said among themselves, “Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?” 50 And Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

It takes COURAGE to face rejection and condemnation when we choose to RECEIVE our need for FORGIVENESS. This moment not only represents her experience with people socially but also our life internally— the shame and condemnation we carry inside.

In this scene this woman encounters both condemnation and **COMPASSION**. But JESUS CALLS HER OUT OF THAT CROWD... into his COMPASSION.

**Admitting our need for forgiveness is an act of FAITH.**

**FAITH that Jesus’ compassion has already freed us from all condemnation.**

1 John 1:9 But if we freely admit our sins when his light uncovers them, he will be faithful to forgive us every time. God is just to forgive us our sins because of Christ, and he will continue to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Where we need forgiveness is where God wants to fill us with his love.**

**Forgiveness from God opens the way to receive forgiveness from others and to forgive OURSELF.**

Forgiveness transforms us into more loving people:

- ❖ More humble
- ❖ Less judgmental
- ❖ More able to connect— emotionally, and experientially
- ❖ Ministry of forgiveness to others... You’re an amateur... I’m a pro sinner.