

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

THE CASE OF TWO SINNERS – PART III

Luke 7:47-48,50 “Therefore I (Jesus) 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.” . . . “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” (Read Luke 7:40-50)

Jesus told a parable to the Pharisee, whose name was Simon. “A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?” Simon answered, “The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.” (Verses 41-43)

Jesus then applied the parable to Simon judging Jesus for permitting the woman to worship Him. Jesus said to Simon, “I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven.” She had committed many sins and probably some of them repeatedly. The reason Jesus treated the woman as He did, He explained, was her sins were forgiven not because of her worthy life but because of her faith. He said to her, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Are there sins you repeat? Have you wondered as you confessed these whether God will forgive you since you continue to commit them over and over again? Such a thought would be parallel to how Simon felt about the woman. If she was worthy of Jesus, she would first stop her sinning and once she had demonstrated that she had turned her life around she could come into His presence.

That is not the way it is with God’s forgiveness. As Jesus taught Peter to forgive his brother seventy-times seven times, so God’s supply of grace and forgiveness never runs out. His word simply says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9) Note, it does not put a limit to God’s forgiveness. Simply put, quoting 1 John 1:9, “God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins. . .” PERIOD!

Prayer: Lord, I identify to the sinful woman in that I repeatedly commit sins, even though I don't want to do so. Yet, I do! I plead for Your forgiveness for Jesus' sake. Amen.

I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us From the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains
Clean in His blood most precious Till not a spot remains.

I lay my wants on Jesus; All fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases; My soul He does redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus, My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases; He all my sorrows shares.

I rest my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces; I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes His name abroad is poured.
(LSB 606)