



You might want to take a little time and review and reflect on the Power and Posture series that we have been in the last few weeks. It is always good to be reminded and allow people to share the things that God is teaching them through His Word and through their life experiences that He is directing.

This week we explore the story of the Forgiven, Sinful Woman.

Ask, Which movie seems to always make you cry? Allow people to share.
Are you a crier or a non-crier? What might that say about your personality?

Read Luke 7:36-8:3 or have someone read this passage.

One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table.³⁷ 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,³⁸ 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.³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner."⁴⁰ And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."

⁴¹ "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.⁴² When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?"⁴³ Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly."⁴⁴ 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.⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet.⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment.⁴⁷ Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little."⁴⁸ And he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."⁴⁹ Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this, who even forgives sins?"⁵⁰ And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him,² and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out,³ and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

Jesus is at a dinner with a Pharisee at his house and a "woman of the city/night" hears that Jesus is there and finds her way to the Pharisee's house.

Michael explored **The Posture of the Pharisee/Proud**

- **They know better** – (He knew who this woman was either by reputation or by personal experience) Are you "always" the smartest person in the room?
- **They think they are better** – they just are at least one step ahead of all the others. They would never consider themselves "a sinner".

The Posture of the Humble

- They recognize their Savior when they see/hear Him. The Pharisee only saw a chance to be among an oddity.
- They serve their Savior. She was quick to anoint her Savior with more than she could really afford.

The Posture of Jesus

- Jesus eats with sinners. He chooses to be misunderstood for the sake of those who need Him. How has Jesus reached out to you as a sinner? In the past? Even this week? The beauty of Immanuel – that God is with us.
- Jesus rebukes the proud. He ascertains our thoughts when they are not in sync with Him. Jesus reads his thoughts and uses a “nice story” to lower the boom on the Pharisee’s sinfulness.
- Jesus consistently receives the humble. The proud always struggle with receiving the humble.

The Power of Great Sin

We seem to think that the power of sin is so great that we have no real choice. We believe that we cannot overcome sin so many times. This idea of free will seems to be more like the no-free will.

PRIDE – is the great sin and I is the very middle of this word. Our desire to “be god” leads us to give in to the power of sin. Our sin is never as bad as someone else’s sin.

What would you consider to be a “spectacular sin”?

God sees equally. Our pride always leads us to see sin in others as more heinous than our own sin.

What are some sins in your life that are as grievous as any other sin? (let people think about their own sin) (impatience, irritability, gossip, anger, envy, jealousy, etc.)

When confronted with sin, are you angry and defensive? These are red flags and great indicators of pride in our lives.

The woman began to weep. Her spectacular sin caused her to see her Savior spectacularly.

What about your “little” sin? As long as you see your sin as little, know that your pride is HUGE!

Your love for Jesus will be in correlation to your view of your own sinfulness. If you see your sin as little, then Jesus will be little to you. As you begin to love Him and understand that any and all sin is HUGE, you will gain a greater view of Jesus’ love and grace.

God does not disown us in our sin and unfaithfulness, but He consistently draws us back to Himself. He will not force us back, but is always welcoming for the sinner who will come home.

Back to our question from the beginning – Are you a crier or a non-crier? Let’s look a little deeper. What do your tears say about you? Do we weep about the consequences of our sin or do we weep about the One and the others who our sins have hurt?

Some tears are just about “oh man, we got caught.” Crocodile tears are huge but really mean nothing. Repentant tears - Godly sorrow brings about salvation without regret.

The Power of Forgiveness

- Causes us to love
- Causes us to serve
- Causes us to give

Is your life marked by love, service and giving? As you answer these questions, ask God to empower you to love, serve and give because of your love for Him.

Read Colossians 3:13 - bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Take time to share prayer requests and pray together. Allow