

Home Group Discussion Questions

Sunday 22nd May 2011

Passage Luke 7:36-50

Icebreaker: How did you make ends meet (survive financially) as a student?

Read the Passage: Luke 7:36-50

There were 3 points to this Sunday's message:

- We are all debtors
- Why knowing that matters
- Paying off the debt

Questions:

1. What are the indications from this passage that the woman comes in response to having already experienced God's grace and forgiveness?

Why does it matter to understand that to be the case?

2. In what ways do the woman and Simon the Pharisee differ, and in what ways are they similar?

Which of them do you most associate with and why?

3. Why does Simon think Jesus can't be a prophet?

How easy do you find it to welcome/reach out to those unlike yourself – especially those who adopt a different lifestyle? Why is that?

4. Jesus' parable of the debtors teaches us that we are all in debt and unable to pay. It doesn't matter how much in debt you are, if you can't pay, you're in trouble. Does that mean there is no distinction between the seriousness of different sins?

[see: John 19:11; Ezek 8:6, 13, 15; Matt 5:19, 23:23; Lev 5:17, Num 15:30; James 3:1]

5. According to Jesus' parable (v41-42), and his response to the woman (v50), how does God forgive sins?

Read Ephesians 2:8-10. What implication does this understanding of forgiveness and salvation have for 'good works' – acts of service and self sacrifice for example?

6. In the New Testament letters, the apostles consistently address Christians as 'saints' – those who are holy, who have been counted righteous in the sight of

God. Why is it important to understand both our position as debtors unable to pay and that we are saints? What are the dangers of emphasizing one of these over the other? Why do they fit so well together?

7. Why does understanding our indebtedness to God, and his grace towards us, help us in our worship?

8. Why should understanding that we are forgiven debtors influence how we treat others – in particular those who sin against us? Can you give an example of when this has made a difference in how you respond to someone else?

9. Why is this woman an example to us that forgiveness prompts us to serve others?

10. If we have been forgiven our (many) sins, how should we respond when we are reminded of them (by others/ourselves/the devil – the accuser of believers)?