

Who is the biggest sinner?

Moping around all day feeling sorry for yourself, is sin, just as murder is sin. But if both are forgiven completely, who feels greater about the forgiveness?

Why does Jesus forgive? Do we take God's forgiveness for granted?

[Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and an uninvited, unnamed sinful woman appears in the house.

With the audacity to interrupt the meal, and bathe Jesus' feet with tears and ointment. She even kissed his disgusting feet.

Jesus should know she is a sinner – and unclean.
He should leave her alone.

Jesus already knows her sin. Jesus doesn't forgive BECAUSE she bathed him.

What he teaches Simon the Pharisee, is that she didn't come get her sins forgiven, but to respond to the forgiveness that Jesus has already given her. Simon is also forgiven – but doesn't respond.

Jesus forgives– and she responds with love. Jesus receives her thanks and love, and reminds us that we should do likewise.]

How much have you been forgiven?

The 'amount' of forgiveness, is how we think, we like that because we can count it, quantify it, compare it to everybody else.

Picture

The field is where we get to be with God, the fence is sin, the barrier between us and God, and the boxes are how much forgiveness is needed to see God.

If everyone is given the same equal amount, people are left out.

If everyone is given equitable amount, we all see God, same promises.

Salvation in Luke is bringing things in line together, equity, the mountains brought low, the valleys raised up. The least are made great, and the great are brought down from their thrones...etc.

We all share in the same promises, no one is greater than another.

We all share in the same result of forgiveness, even if a different amount of forgiveness is experienced. We just may experience in different ways.

Those who have lots of debt, will feel like more forgiveness was granted.

Maybe we should just have permission to sin more, so that we can experience a greater forgiveness.

But the truth is - Jesus doesn't offer more forgiveness – even if it feels that way.
Jesus wipes the debt clean, takes the sin away.
Jesus removes the fence barrier entirely.
It is more than equity.

Picture

Whether the debt is great or small. We are all given common ground.
We all share in the same promise together.

How far does God's healing and forgiveness go?

To those worst sinners we can think of. To
the ends of the earth. To death. Jesus
always reaches down, to lift us up.

The point of this story... isn't about knowing how much we are forgiven. Or
even what we have been forgiven from. It is what we are forgiven for. To love.

It is living our forgiveness, loving because we are forgiven.

Responding with joy and tears, and gratitude to the grace of God through Jesus
death and resurrection.

Celebrating that sin is removed, debts are wiped clean, and all of us play together in God's presence.

Your sins are forgiven – a redeeming promise, not to be taken for granted.

Because much or little – those are liberating words that bring us into relationship with God.

We know we miss the mark, fall short of God's expectations, and will - but we experience the Good News of God in Christ Jesus: your sins are forgiven. We take our place at the table and eat with Jesus, sharing in his body and blood given and shed for you. We look to the cross, where the sin of the world hung, and we see the liberation in the empty tomb on Easter morning.

The promise is for us sinners, for Pharisees, for murderers, for the broken, for the outcast, for the powerful, for the least among us, for the worst among us, for those who fall on our knees to confess, and for those whose pride gets in the way.

For we all need forgiveness.

And we all are forgiven.

Your sins are forgiven.

Go in peace. Thanks be to God.

