

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Exodus 20:1-17 and Luke 7:36-50

SINGING: 234:1-5 -- 321:1-2 – 266:1-3 – 362:1-3 – 232:1-3

GOD'S MESSAGE ABOUT FORGIVENESS

- I. In His dealings with repentant sinner II. In His teaching a self-righteous sinner
III. In His message to a believing sinner

I. Message of forgiveness in Christ's dealings with a repentant sinner

A. A history of a sinful past is no hindrance to seeking His forgiveness

1. Her appearance caused an enormous discomfort and stir

2. Her attraction to Jesus is that *He came to seek and save sinners like her*

a. compare and reflect on Luke 5:27, 30 – 5:32 – 7:34 – 15:1-2

B. Repentance is clearly important in seeking His forgiveness (vs.38)

1. Repentance doesn't make us worthier but sends a message to Christ/God

2. Repentance isn't always spoken with words: *every actions in this woman spoke her genuine sorrow over sin as well as love to God*

C. Christ's example of received her is a reassuring invitation for us

II. Message of Forgiveness in Christ's teaching of a self-righteous sinner

A. The point of contact between Christ and a sinner is our *sin* (vs. 39)

1. Simon thought the point of contact was *his righteousness*

2. Sin is not *hindrance* to come to Christ but sin is the most *compelling reason* for coming to Christ for forgiveness

B. Forgiveness is a matter of pure grace alone for we are all debtors (vs. 40-42)

1. How many sins does it take to make us a debtor?

2. What means have we to pay our God for even one sin?

3. Yet God is here today to receive debtors as her to pardon them!

- Archibald Alexander: *You cannot gratify the heart of the sympathizing Savior more than by exercising confidence in His power and willingness to save you!*

- C. Believing the willingness of God's readiness to pardon will stir up the flames of real love to Him (42-47)
1. Jesus contrasted her love to Simon's callous lack of love and dishonor

 2. What made her love the Lord Jesus so intensely?
 - a. not because she already experienced forgiveness (48, 50)

 - b. but she saw in Jesus the glory of God's character of love
 - Simon's eyes saw God as a *God Whose favor you need to earn*

 - Woman's eyes saw Jesus as *God Who is gracious in His love*

 3. Love to God is always the fruit of faith in God's nature/character!

III. The Message of Divine Forgiveness to a believing sinner

- A. Jesus never hides the truth: *the woman's sins are many* (47)
1. when God forgives, He doesn't ignore sin but deal with sin

 2. God's way of dealing with sin is *through transfer – substitution*
 - a. God doesn't cancel the debt by simply 'cancelling it'

 - b. God cancels the debt of sin by 'making payment for it.'
 - Gospel of Jesus' cross is God's solution to the problem of sin
- B. Jesus openly declares reality of woman's forgiveness (48-50)
1. He does that only *when He sees faith* in Him

 2. What Jesus spoke to this woman then, He now speaks to all upright believers today!
 - a. if you have faith like her in Him, your sins are as forgiven as hers!
 - forgiveness is received not *because of her faith in Him*

 - forgiveness is received *through her faith in Him*

 - b. 'go in peace' is *go home in the peace with God I have established for you in my personal sacrifice* (Romans 5:1)