

Small Group Questions

7.24.16

Speaking: Terry Townsend

Wired | A Life of Worship:

Forgiven

- 1.** When we listen to the story of Simon and the prostitute, it seems obvious to condemn Simon as the villain. But think of a time when you have been the one to cling to religion instead of Jesus. In what ways have you been the Simon of this story?

LOOKING BACK:

On Sunday, Pastor Terry brought two men up on stage to illustrate what it would have been like to dine with Jesus based on Luke 7:36-50. We got to see what it must've looked like for Jesus and Simon (a Pharisee) to talk and eat together. While doing this, Simon was distracted by a prostitute, weeping and washing Jesus' feet with her tears and hair. Simon could not appreciate the presence of Jesus because he was so focused on the label of the woman and the commotion she was causing.

The woman knew who she was—a sinner. Simon didn't have a clue.

DIGGING DEEPER:

Verse: Luke 7:40-43 (NIV)

Jesus tells a parable about two people forgiven of their financial debt, one with a large sum and the other not so large. He sums it up by asking in verse 42, "Now which will love him more?" Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

- 2.** The woman knew she was a sinner, in need of forgiveness. Do you know who you are, or are you a Simon?

It is so easy to forget our need for Jesus, especially when we place ourselves on a pedestal above others. And once we put labels on people we think are below us, it's difficult to remove that label. Pastor Terry told us about when his oldest son would go to camp he would lose 20 pairs of clothes, so they started writing with sharpie on the tags. In contrast, he shared a story about meeting a man in the customs line at the airport. This man did not judge him for being a pastor, nor did Terry judge him for not being a Christian. There was no fighting or arguing—they were able to talk with open minds and with respect one another.

3. In what ways have you been let down by trusting religion and forgetting about God?

TAKING IT HOME:

Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.” Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” Luke 7:47-48

4. How can we be reminded of our love for Jesus on a daily basis, rather than sinking into a pattern of self-sufficiency, like Simon?

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- Remember to purchase tickets for the Fresno Grizzly game on July 29 at the church office.
 - Join us at Peoples Church every Wednesday night at 7pm for classes and Bible studies for all ages.