

BIG FORGIVENESS BIG LOVE

Pastor Brett Capaci

The Parables of Jesus : July 18, 2021

"One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!' Then Jesus answered his thoughts. 'Simon,' he said to the Pharisee, 'I have something to say to you.' 'Go ahead, Teacher,' Simon replied. Then Jesus told him this story: 'A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?' Simon answered, 'I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt.' 'That's right,' Jesus said. Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, 'Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn't offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume. I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.' Then Jesus said to the woman, 'Your sins are forgiven.' The men at the table said among themselves, 'Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?' And Jesus said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'"

—Luke 7:36-50 (NLT)

"Who do you suppose loved him more?"

—Luke 7:42 (NLT)

The question behind the question

Are we a people who owe a great debt or a small one?

"You have heard that it was said, Do not commit adultery. But I tell you, everyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

—Matthew 5:27-28 (CSB)

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The tyranny of little love

"A person who is forgiven little shows only little love."

—Luke 7:47 (NLT)

"I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love."

—Luke 7:47 (NLT)

Jesus is radically different.

"Then Jesus said to the woman, 'Your sins are forgiven.' The men at the table said among themselves, 'Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?'"

—Luke 7:48-49 (NLT)

"No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends."

—John 15:13 (CSB)

When we truly experience the bigness of God's love and forgiveness, we can freely dispense huge portions of that love and forgiveness to others.

"We bring our bucketfuls of sin and lay them at His crucified feet. He brings His oceans of grace and pours them over our forlorn heads. It's a glorious exchange."

—Andrew Wilson - (British pastor and writer)