

## Friendship: Practicing Forgiveness

### Key Scriptures

**Luke 7:35-50** (on second page)

**Luke 17:3-4** "Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. <sup>4</sup> "And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

**Mark 11:25** And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

**Ephesians 4:31-32** Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. <sup>32</sup> And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

**Hebrews 12:15** See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

**Key Point:** Forgiveness is something you must do inwardly in your attitude, and at the same time seek it outwardly through reconciliation.

## TALK IT OVER

**Start talking:** Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Pick one of these two questions to answer: What is the weirdest meal you've ever eaten? What is the strangest thing you believed as a child?

**Start thinking:**

- Read through Luke 7:35-50 as a group. What are your observations? (Try not to move to interpretation or application yet.)
- In Luke 7, what does the woman's actions towards Jesus reveal about her understanding of forgiveness and love? How does this contrast with the Pharisee?
- How do you reconcile Luke 17:3 seeming to emphasize forgiving after a person repents, with Mark 11:25 and Eph 4:32 and the command to forgive anything against anyone, and to forgive other believers just as God forgave you?
- What are the steps/elements of forgiveness? (Kyle listed 4)

**Start sharing:**

- Sunday's message taught that our ability to forgive is tied to receiving forgiveness from others, and ultimately from God. Has your understanding of God's forgiveness impacted your ability to forgive others?
- Why is the connection between receiving forgiveness and love so significant in maintaining deep-rooted relationships?
- Can you forgive someone while still seeking justice, especially when dealing with serious offenses (e.g., legal wrongdoing)?
- Why is it important to aim for reconciliation when forgiving someone? How does this go beyond simply letting go of the offense?
- What practical steps can we take to root out bitterness (Heb 12:15, Eph 4:31) and practice genuine forgiveness in our relationships?

**Start doing:** Jesus commanded us that if we have anything against anyone, we are to forgive them. But you may also need to confront a brother or sister if they have sinned against you. Is there any unfinished business you need to address?

**Prayer Requests:** Spend time praying together about what you shared tonight. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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**Luke 7:36-50** <sup>36</sup> Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat.

<sup>37</sup> And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil,

<sup>38</sup> and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil.

<sup>39</sup> Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."

<sup>40</sup> And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it."

<sup>41</sup> "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

<sup>42</sup> "And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"

<sup>43</sup> Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged."

<sup>44</sup> Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head.

<sup>45</sup> "You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in.

<sup>46</sup> "You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil.

<sup>47</sup> "Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."

<sup>48</sup> Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

<sup>49</sup> And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

<sup>50</sup> Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."