



FORGIVENESS

God's Justice is Satisfied

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson #1

WOMAN IN THE HOUSE OF SIMON

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

The forgiveness of God passes human understanding. There is no sin so great or so vile that God cannot forgive. But even the smallest sin needs also to be forgiven by God.

The New Testament word *forgiveness* means “to send off” or “away.” The idea is that sin, when it is forgiven, is separated from the sinner. This does not mean, however, that God simply overlooks sin. He has said, “The soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4, 20). And, according to Leviticus 17:11, “It is the blood (upon the altar) that maketh an atonement for the soul.” (See also Leviticus 4:35.) So it is clear that God requires a penalty for sin.

For hundreds of years before the coming of God the Son to earth, God the Father accepted the sacrificing of animals as substitutes. The sinner brought his animal to the tabernacle. It was slain and then burned upon the altar. Thus the sentence of death was paid by the death of the animal. Because man sinned repeatedly, he had to bring sacrifices again and again.

All of that was changed, however, after the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. The blood of bulls and goats and lambs is no longer acceptable to God. When God the Son gave His own blood willingly, He died in the place of every sinner. God the Father has accepted that one perfect sacrifice as a substitute for all the sins of the whole world (Hebrews 10:4-14).

Let it be remembered:

1. The penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23).
2. The penalty must be paid (Hebrews 9:22).
3. The Lord Jesus paid the penalty with His blood (1 Peter 2:24).
4. By believing in the Lord Jesus Christ we receive forgiveness for our sins (Matthew 26:28).

In this series we shall learn in lesson one that *God can forgive sinners*; in lesson two, that *children of God must forgive those who sin against them*; and in lesson three, that *if someone has something against us, we must ask his forgiveness*.

You—and your pupils, also—should write the following truths in your notebooks under the heading FORGIVENESS:

1. The *origin* of forgiveness: *The love and grace of God.*
2. The *basis* of forgiveness: *The sacrifice of Christ.*
3. The *result* of forgiveness: *The death penalty of the sinner is paid.*
4. Two things involved in forgiveness:
 - (1) *The justice of God is satisfied.*
 - (2) *The sinner is separated from his sin.*

God demands full payment for sin before He can forgive!

Scripture to be studied: Luke 7:36-50

The aim of the lesson: To show that God is able and willing to forgive any sinner.

What your students should know: God can forgive sinners because His Son paid the penalty for sin—death.

What your students should feel: Unhappy over one's sins; the need to be forgiven.

What your students should do: Believe Jesus is the Son of God and receive Him as Saviour.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. Seeking Jesus (Luke 7:36-37).
2. Finding Jesus (Luke 7:37-38).
3. Forgiven by Jesus (Luke 7:39-49).
4. Joy from Jesus (Luke 7:50).

The verse to be memorized:

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:32)

THE LESSON

1. SEEKING JESUS

Luke 7:36-37



Show Illustration #1

A sad and lonely woman walked down the street of a city of Galilee. Nobody wanted to walk with her. No one cared to talk to her. The people in the city knew that she was a sinful woman.

She, too, knew that she was sinful. Oh, if only she had not done such wicked things! She wanted to forget her past, but she could not. Every day she was reminded of her evil deeds.

Even the people who were once her friends now turned their backs to her or ridiculed her as she walked by. She felt alone and helpless. She knew that the penalty for sin is death.

There was one Person, however, and only one, who seemed different from everyone else. He talked differently—not with scorn but with love. The woman had heard of some of the things He had said as He spoke to great crowds. One thing He had said was: “Come to Me, all of you who are weary and overburdened, and I will give you rest . . . Learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls” (Matthew 11:28-29).

She was overburdened—overburdened with sin. She could not rest because of her sins—and because of the thought of the penalty for sin. But this One, Jesus, had told people to come to Him for rest. Would He be willing to help her, even though she was a sinner?

2. FINDING JESUS

Luke 7:37-38

She had heard that Jesus had been invited to eat at the home of a man named Simon. Simon was a Pharisee, and Pharisees despised sinful women like her. Although she knew this, she wanted to get close to the Lord Jesus. She had not been invited to eat at the home of Simon. Nevertheless she hoped to step inside the open doorway, as other people did, to watch Jesus as He ate.

Quietly she followed others who went into the home of Simon. She saw Simon welcoming Jesus—but not with the kiss on the cheek which was usually given to honored guests. That seemed strange. She expected someone would bring a basin of water to wash the dust from the sandaled feet of the guests, for that was the custom. But Simon did not bother about that either. Nor did he—as was proper—anoint with oil the head of his important Visitor.

The woman could not understand it. Surely Simon must have known that Jesus was a great teacher. How could he be so rude to a guest?

She watched as Jesus and the other guests were led to their places at the table. In that land the people leaned on couches with their heads toward the table and their feet away from it as they ate their meal.



Show Illustration #2

The woman crept quietly behind Jesus and stood at His feet, crying. She did not look around. She was not concerned about what the others thought. The closer she was to Him, the more she realized how sinful she was. Oh, how she cried! She knew that she, sinner that she was, was not worthy to be near the Lord Jesus. She cried and cried so much that soon the feet of Jesus were all wet—wet enough

to be washed with her tears. Having no towel, she bent down and dried His feet with her long hair. She kissed his feet again and again. Then she took a bottle from the folds of her dress. Lovingly she poured sweet-smelling ointment from the bottle onto the feet of Jesus.

3. FORGIVEN BY JESUS

Luke 7:39-49



Show Illustration #3

All the while Simon the Pharisee had been watching her. He had seen all her actions, and he did not like what he saw. He was disgusted. *What is she doing in my house?* he thought to himself. *She is a sinful woman. Jesus should send her away. If He is really a prophet, He should know what a sinful woman she is.* Simon wanted to get the woman out of his house.

The Lord Jesus, knowing exactly what Simon was thinking, said, “Simon, there is something I want to say to you.” Then Jesus told him this brief story: “There was once a man who was owed money by two people. One owed money equal to wages for 500 days. The other owed the equal of wages for 50 days. But neither of them could pay what they owed. So the man graciously forgave both of them. Tell Me, Simon, which one do you suppose loved him the most after that?”

“I suppose the one whom he forgave the most loved him the most,” Simon replied.

“You are right,” said Jesus. Then turning to the woman He said to Simon, “Look! See this woman kneeling here? I came to your house and you did not offer Me water to wash the dust from My feet. But she has washed My feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave Me no kiss of greeting as is the custom. But from the moment I came in she has continually kissed My feet. You did not anoint My head with oil but she has covered My feet with ointment.”

By this time Simon should have been very much ashamed of himself, but he said nothing.

Jesus continued: “That is why I tell you, Simon, that her sins which are many, are forgiven, for she has shown Me so much love. But the man who has little to be forgiven has only a little love to give.”

Then to the woman Jesus said, “Your sins are forgiven.”

Could it be true? She had heard Him say the word *forgiven*. And He had said it to her! She found it hard to believe that her sins were forgiven—not only one sin but *all* of her sins. She would not have to think about them again. She was forgiven of her sinful past—forgiven by the Son of God Himself. No longer was there sadness on her face. Her heart was filled with joy. It did not matter to her that the other men at the table were whispering among themselves. If she had listened she would have heard them say: “Who is this Man, who even forgives sins?” They did not believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He has power to forgive sins. Nor did they believe that anyone could have so much love that He would forgive a sinful woman.



4. JOY FROM JESUS

Luke 7:50

Speaking again to the woman, Jesus said, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”

Show Illustration #4

The woman left the house. Her expensive ointment was gone. But that

didn't matter. Now she could lift her head and smile again. Her sins were forgiven. God would never hold them against her any more. (See Hebrews 10:17.) She was pure and clean in His sight.

Is *your* heart pure and clean in the sight of God? Have your sins been forgiven? No sin is too great or wicked for God to forgive. But perhaps you say, "I have never done a very great sin." That is the way Simon the Pharisee felt. He did not think that he had done great sins. But he had no sympathy at all for

the woman. He was proud. So, in the sight of God, he needed to be forgiven just as the woman did. Even the smallest sin is wicked in the sight of our holy God.

The penalty of sin is death. The penalty must be paid. The Lord Jesus Christ paid your penalty by His death. If you believe Him to be the Son of God and will receive Him as your Saviour, you too will have forgiveness of sin.