

## Application Guide: Forgiveness

Let us examine the Scriptures like the Bereans who "received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." Acts 17:11 (NIV)

**June 27, 2004:** "Forgiveness" by Dale Shaw, Elder and Director of Outreach at College Park Church. Brother Dale presented a powerful message on the beauty, cost and implications of forgiveness from Luke 7:36-50.

**Note to Leader:** Before you come together as a group, pray as Dale and his intern, Sean Davis, did, that God would speak to each person and reveal an area of life that He would like to come into the Light of His grace and mercy, and that they would be motivated by the Holy Spirit to take appropriate action. And when you begin your discussion this evening, ask how has God been speaking to you as you've spent 10 minutes a day thinking about the story in Luke and the passages in Isaiah that Dale Shaw asked us to read and meditate upon.

As we read Luke 7:36-50, three characters emerge. Who were they and what can we say about each person?

1. How would you describe Simon?

(Simon was a Pharisee, a religious leader, a political leader, and man of authority, a man of **high class, yet quite hypocritical, who ignored common courtesy towards Jesus, and did not recognize Jesus as the Christ, nor love Jesus.** He simply wanted to know if Jesus was a prophet.)

2. How would you describe the woman visitor?

(The woman was described as a sinful woman, a prostitute, who had heard of, and perhaps seen, Jesus and knew who he is and what he had been doing. She was a woman of **low class, authentic, sincere, who went beyond common courtesy by humiliating herself in order to worship Jesus, loved Jesus and demonstrated an outpouring of love for Him because she knew He was the Christ who could forgive and save her of her many sins, and empower her so she could turn her life around.**)

3. By contrast, how would you describe Jesus?

(Jesus the Christ who is **in a class by Himself, incapable of hypocrisy or insincerity, accepted the woman's worship and praised it, loved both Simon and the woman,** knew the hearts and even the thoughts of Simon, and gave listening ear, an understanding response, and wise counsel to both.)

### ***The Beauty of Forgiveness...in an outpouring of love for Jesus***

Brother Dale described in great detail the outpouring of love that the sinful woman displayed in her encounter with Jesus.

1. Are you one who is so overwhelmed with what Jesus can do, or has done, in your life that you glow with an outpouring of love for Jesus as you relate the events to others? If not yourself, do you know someone who is so inclined?

2. Are you willing to share with an overflow of love for Jesus what he has, and is doing in your life, even when others look down on you and think you are foolish for giving God praise, honor and glory?
  - a. If yes, share something about the occasion and what resulted from your sharing.
  - b. If not, share an occasion when you wanted to do, or say something, you knew God wanted you to do, or say, but were hesitant to do so because of your concern for the negative reaction of others. Why are you hesitant?
3. What would you like to do next time a similar situation (as in your answer to the question above) presents itself?

### ***The Cost of Forgiveness***

Brother Dale made the excellent point that when Christ forgave the Woman (in v. 48 and 50b) He did so with the agony of the Cross in mind. He knew that to be able to say to her “your faith has saved you” He Himself would have to pay the ultimate price: receive all the pain and burden of Sin, be separated from His communion with the Father, die, and receive God’s entire wrath for Sin.

- When you ask Jesus to forgive you for something, do you remember how much He had to go through in order to restore us into fellowship with the Father?

### ***The Implications of Forgiveness***

Brother Dale concluded his message with a challenge to each of us to consider how big is the God we serve, and gave several examples of those whose focus is upon Jesus. If our focus is on self, then by implication we have a very small conception of God. But if our focus is on the creator of the universe, the awesome God we serve, then we can do great things for Him as he works in and through us to accomplish his purpose.

Dale encouraged us to read Isaiah 6:1-4; 57:15-19 and consider all of Creation, that Jesus made it all, and that we come to realize that we are not the reason God saved us! God redeems us, not *for our own good*, but so that we can *magnify Him*!

1. When confronted with life’s situations, do you think more about yourself, or more about Jesus?
2. Do you tend to think more about the situation, how to solve it, or about the Lord, His promises to you, and His ways?
3. When confronted with situations, do you pray for God the Father to empower you through the Holy Spirit and magnify Himself through you so that His son Jesus will get all the glory, and approach the situation knowing that it is only through Him that you are able to accomplish His will and purpose in this situation?
4. What is one thing you could commit to doing starting today that would lead you become a better magnifier and lover of Jesus, and/or less focused on yourself and your problems or desires? How can we in the Flock Group help you in doing that?