

Easter 2015

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Colossians 2:14 – He canceled the debt, which listed all the rules we failed to follow. He took away that record with its rules and nailed it to the cross. *NCV*

Today we celebrate the outcome of Jesus dying on a cross, being buried for 3 days, and being raised from the dead.

You can celebrate a holiday or you can receive the blessing that this day represents.

Example: Going to the beach the curtains closed and looking at pictures

- Celebrating Easter without receiving Jesus and the forgiveness he offers is just like this example.

Everybody longs to be forgiven:

- Forgiven by our parents
 - Example: Paco, meet me in front of the newspaper office – “ALL IS FORGIVEN”
 - 800 Paco’s showed up
- Forgiven by our children, spouse, and/or families
- Forgiven by God

Two Areas Of Forgiveness I Want You To Experience Today:

1. Forgiveness from God
2. Forgiving ourself

The struggle today is not the availability of God’s forgiveness, but our capacity to believe in His love, mercy, and goodness and **receive it**.

1. Forgiveness from God

Luke 7:36-48 – Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. ³⁷ When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, ³⁸ and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. ³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is — that she is a sinner.” ⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.” “Tell me, teacher,” he said. ⁴¹ “Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now

which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. ⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven — for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." *NIV*

- "She is a sinner" – implying that he wasn't as bad as she was.
- Regardless of the depths of your sin, you don't have the ability to pay God back.
- Both should have been equally grateful, as neither had the capacity to pay.
- Jesus paid the price for your forgiveness.

2. Forgiving yourself

Do you see yourself in light of how God sees you, or do you live trapped in the shadows of your past?

Example: Addict that can't see himself/herself living beyond the pain he/she masks and the people he/she hurt.

When forgiveness occurs, captives go free.

Forgiveness from God – You go free

Forgiving yourself – You go free

Forgiving others – They go free and so do you

- When you forgive, the prisoner that you set free is yourself.

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