



The Shepherd's Voice

June 11, 2013

By Fr. Joe Rees

“Forgiven Much, Loving More”

Jesus said, “For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.” Luke 7: 47 (passage 36-50)

I suppose it wasn't until I was much older than a teen that I realized the weight of my sins that had collected over the years. In my personal failures and flaws that had shown themselves in my life in ways that detracted from the good witness I was supposed to have before the Lord who loves me, I was desperately in need of confession. I needed to realize the full understanding of the forgiveness of God, His perfect love. Sometimes with age, you begin to realize the power of what those sins can insidiously do to harm, hurt and destroy you. If they are not given over to a loving and merciful Savior, to Jesus, who teaches us in this passage the profound truth of His merciful love, then you too will become incapacitated by sin, and suffer unnecessarily.

Jesus is giving a powerful chastisement to the Pharisee in whose home He is dining. The woman of ill-repute comes in to anoint Jesus' feet with perfumed aloe, and she is weeping and kissing His feet. Yes, she's a sinner. But, Jesus knows her heart, He knows her sincerity, He knows her contrition. He simply forgives her of her many (how many?!)... 'many' sins. Why does He do this? His Love—first. Her love—that opened up His love. Jesus loves with compassion knowing her plight, her incapacity to change her circumstances, her failure of character or resolve to live differently. He knew her. And He knows us in just the same way.

She 'opened up His heart' of love by loving Him. How much? “For she loved much!” It was her extravagant offering of love that released His forgiving mercy and love. It wasn't that she tried to buy her sins off. No, she honestly and completely offered the most tangible and expensive gift she possessed that represented her sorrowful soul and did so with tears. I've been there, have you? My tears flowed incessantly as I knelt before Jesus' feet. I knew I was wrong and had offended Him. I was without excuses or any rationalization. I knew He knew I was egregiously walking contrary to the will of God. Yet, the Spirit somehow told me to humble myself in the sight of the Lord, and weeping, ask Him for His forgiveness. I did and my life has changed forever—I realized 'more love'—Jesus' love in me.

When we do this we 'love much'...because we aren't about loving ourselves in prideful or arrogant defiance of God. We are offering Him the sincere aloe of our broken hearts, perfumed with the leveling spirit of contrition, humbly bowing our heads to the ground and kissing His nail scarred feet. In our every sorrowful sob we hear the hammer striking the nails as He takes the pain and suffering for us. We realize anew what Jesus did for us on the cross. We know that it was His blood that gushed forth to cover the multitude of my sins, our sins. It was His extraordinary, overwhelming love that covered over completely and forever those sins. What was stored in the sin-bank of my life, was completely released; accounts closed. No longer was I a debtor unto death. I became a well-spring of His love. The slate is cleansed.

God doesn't remember the sins He covered with His precious Son's blood. I ought not therefore remember them either. We are forgiven. Let His Love spring forth!

In Jesus we have the anti-dote to sin. His loving sacrifice on our behalf releases us from the penalty of death that leaves us without any hope for heaven. In Jesus we have the free gift and hope of heaven. His love is so far greater than what I can imagine. We have eternal life in that absolute assurance of His permanent forgiveness. We have that blessed hope of heaven without penalties, or any reason to have to work them off, or purgation. Therefore, we love even more and loving we forgive even more. In loving we live like Jesus. In loving we are set abundantly set free. In loving we give Jesus to others.

So when I look back now and contemplate the 'much sin' in my life, whether that was 50 years ago or yesterday, I realize now, beyond

the shadow of a doubt, that I'm forgiven. Now set free from long term guilt, I have only one cause of life worth living for—His Name is Jesus. And, I have that Love that He has placed in my heart, to love and forgive others just like I've been loved and forgiven. It's in the realizing just how much I've been forgiven, that I'm truly able to love even more. And 'loving more' is and always will be who I choose to be, who I will be, because of Jesus in me. Jesus elsewhere said, 'Go and sin no more'; true, and now I just want to love more!

I hope you will be equally set free today as you read this and know that in coming to Jesus with a contrite heart, and loving Him with all your being, you too are forgiven, loved, and able to have a new life of 'loving more'.

Love in Christ,
Fr. Joe

Sunday Servers this week...

June 16, 2013		8:00 a.m. Service	10:15 a.m. Service
First Reader	2 Samuel 11:26-12:15	Pam Theobald	Jim Livingston
Psalm Reader	Psalm 32	Kay Focke	Alex Teixeira
Second Reader	Galatians 2:11-21	Dick Phelps	Anna Teixeira
Intercessor		Thor Strom	Mitch Dubski
Lay Euch. Ministers		John & Myrna Lipnicke	Jani Dubski, Cline Handy
Acolytes		Thor Strom	Mitch D (C); Frances S (T1); Zachary J (T2)
Welcomers		Maureen Green, Paula Sholly	Margaret Olsen, Connie Fowle
Ushers		Jackie Lansing, Chris Corey	Dink Nash, Ted Vallas, JR Fox, Jim Livingston
Vestry Person of Day	Dink Nash		
Healing Ministers		Jan Simon, Rudy Theobald	Petey Seibold, Donna Sandner
Announcer		Myrna Lipnicke	JR Fox
Counters			Michael Murphy, Cline Handy

Tonight – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. - Join the preparations for the Vacation Bible Camp that will be held in July. Our children deserve our attention and this is an opportunity to be a caring presence for the children and to help make their Bible Camp experience especially memorable.

Soaking Prayer

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

6:30 p.m.

Wear something comfortable to "soak" in the presence of the Lord!

Anglican Night at Petco Park. See the Padres play the Giants in the company of fellow Anglicans. Friday, July 12th More information available soon. **Save the Date!**

Sunday at Grace

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist w. Choir
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
9:30 a.m. Prayer Minister Training
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with
Worship Team

Cursillo meeting on
Sunday, June 23rd at 9:30
between services. Bring
your ideas about
candidates and anything
else related to Cursillo.

Readings for Sunday

2 Samuel 11:26-12:15
Psalm 32
Galatians 2:11-21
Luke 7:36-50

We are using the English Standard
Version of the Bible and the Lectionary
from the Book of Common Prayer
(Year C)

This Week at Grace – June 11, 2013 – June 18, 2013

Tues. June 11

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
3:30 p.m. Alpha Club for Kids
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC
6-8p.m. Vacation Bible Camp orientation & Prep.
"God in Action"

Wed. June 12

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m. Youth Group
6:30 p.m. Soaking Prayer

Thurs. June 13

7:00 a.m. Bible Study
10:00 a.m. Sr. Women's Fellowship luncheon
11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at the Oasis
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Fri. June 14

Fr. Joe's Day Off
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Healing

Sat. June 15

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Worship Team rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Youth Worship & Praise Service
Resurrection- San Marcos – call
760-471-5206 for information.

Sun. June 16

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with choir
9:45 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
9:45 a.m. Prayer Minister training
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Worship Team

Mon. June 17

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer

Tues. June 18

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
3:30 p.m. Alpha Club for Kids
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC
6:30 p.m. Fellowship potluck dinner
7:00 p.m. Preparation for "God in Action"
Bible Camp

Rector's Bible Study

Tuesdays

11:30 a.m.

Fr. Joe is leading the group through a study of
the Book of Isaiah. Everyone is welcome.
B.Y.O.L. (Bring your own lunch)

Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.
Morning Prayer at Grace Anglican
All are welcome to attend.

Weekly – There are over 25 small groups meeting
during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of
all the groups or you can find the list on our website:
www.graceanglicanchurch.com.

Up-coming events

Jun 12 Soaking Prayer
Jun 15 Men's Fellowship
Jun 16 Prayer Minister Training – 9:30 a.m.
Jun 17 Men's Prayer – 6:30 a.m.
Jun 23 Cursillo Meeting – 9:45 a.m.
Jun 23 Small Group Leader's Meet – noon
Jun 24 Men's Prayer – 6:30 a.m.
Jun 30 Safe Church Training 9:30 a.m.
July 12 Anglican Night at the Padres
Aug 11 All Parish Picnic & Celebration BBQ!