



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Unless you are Forgiven Much

SPEAKER Elder Hock Chye

THEME Unless

DATE 1-2 October 2022

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Elder Hock Chye shared a message based on Luke 7:36-50, where Jesus was invited to the house of Simon the Pharisee. While Jesus was there, a woman, a prostitute came in with an alabaster jar of perfume, began to weep, wiped his feet, kissed them, and anointed them with her perfume.

In response to the reaction of Simon, Jesus told a story of the two debtors to demonstrate the importance of forgiveness. In the story, Simon and the woman are the two debtors.

LESSONS FROM THE TWO DEBTORS: SIMON AND THE WOMAN

Lessons from Simon the Pharisee

1. While he may have invited Jesus, **Simon chose to keep Jesus at a distance**. He did not accord him the practices that one would give to an honoured guest like a proper greeting, water to wash their feet. In fact, he was detached and kept his distance from Jesus
 - a. Are we doing the same? Are we keeping God at a distance?
 - b. Are we giving him the time and focus in all areas of our lives?
2. **Simon did not treat Jesus as an honoured guest**, as was Jesus' due. He did not accord him the honour and respect that one would give to the Messiah, the Son of God. He did not give Jesus His rightful place.
 - a. Do we give him the honour that is due by listening and being obedient to what He is telling us?
 - b. Do we listen with our ears and hearts?
3. Simon wanted the best of both worlds. Instead of doing things God's way and honouring His son, **Simon wanted the party his own way**. Like other Pharisees, Simon was focused on the superficial practices which gave him the attitude that he is not a debtor that has to be forgiven much. The need to move from a life of performance (practices) and instead come before God with a heart of humility, allows us to be transformed.
 - a. Do we also want our life our way?
 - b. Are we focusing on our self? Or on Jesus? Do we know where the real party is?

Lessons from the Woman, the Sinner

1. **Her devotion is intentional.** She knows that she is a Sinner and was intentional in seeking forgiveness for her sin.
 - a. Do we recognise the depths of our own sin as we approach His throne of grace?
 - b. Are we intentional in approaching Him to seek forgiveness for our sins?

2. **Her devotion is sacrificial.** The jar of perfume would be equivalent to a whole year's salary and to pour it out onto Jesus' feet demonstrates the depth of her love to God and the desire to be forgiven. Like David, she deems it important that what she offers to the Lord is of great value to her, she will not offer to her Lord what has cost her nothing.
 - a. We can sacrifice without love but we cannot love without sacrifice. Are we expressing our devotion to God sacrificially? Or do we hesitate to offer to Him the things that are of great value to us?
 - b. How tightly do we hold on to things that are precious to us? What are we willing to give up in order to gain forgiveness for God?

3. **Her devotion was courageous.** Pouring the oil and letting down her hair would have been considered scandalous during those times and yet, she became vulnerable in the presence of others; she was courageous in seeking forgiveness but it also show the depth of her love for Jesus.
 - a. Are we ready to let go of our ego, our pride, and to embrace the inconveniences that we go through, for the sake of Jesus? Even to the point where the world might consider our sacrifices outrageous or scandalous?
 - b. "We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love" – Martin Luther King

CONCLUSION

We have all sinned greatly, and our need for forgiveness is indeed great. The question to ask is whether or not we recognise our great need for forgiveness.

Between Simon and the Woman, the gap is wide when it comes to understanding the depth of forgiveness. Simon has the intellectual understanding without the substance; the woman understood with the heart and her entire being and was willing to give up what is valuable and be intentional and vulnerable. As a result, when Jesus says, "Your Sins are Forgiven", she is transformed.

Do we recognise the depths of our sin, the heights of His grace, and our great need for His forgiveness? If we do, He will forgive, and we will be transformed.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the 3 Lessons from Simon as expressed by Elder Hock Chye? Which of these lessons are you most able to relate to?

2. What are the 3 Lessons from the Woman as expressed by Elder Hock Chye? Share some of your personal experiences when you were successful in these areas.

3. What is the 1 area that God has placed upon your heart to grow in? Share and pray for one another.