

Generosity Through Forgiveness
We can't out-forgive God
Luke 7:36-50

“Generosity begets generosity. When we receive God’s generosity to us, we possess the capacity for God’s generosity to flow through us. Let us release the joy that generosity brings to our lives!”

Main Idea: God’s generosity in forgiving us our sins frees us to be generous in forgiving every person who sins against us. We forgive because He first forgave us.

and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (Matthew 6:12 [ESV](#))

Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. (Colossians 3:13 [ESV](#))

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32 [ESV](#))

Truth #1: Generosity Begins with Poverty

While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him, so he went in and reclined at table. The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner. And the Lord said to him, “Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? (Luke 11:37-40 [ESV](#))

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:3 [ESV](#))

Truth #2: Generosity Receives Before It Gives

Truth: Jesus does not love this woman and forgive her because she loves Him. This woman loves Jesus because He first loves her and forgives her of her sins.

Truth: No one gives joyful worship to Jesus until they receive eternal blessing from Jesus.

Truth #3: Generosity Revels in God's Grace

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, (Ephesians 1:7)

Truth: It is not the DOCTRINE of God's mercy that creates such joy in our hearts. It is the EXPERIENCE of God's mercy that moves us into surpassing joy. The doctrine provides the foundation of the experience, but the experience is necessary.

Truth: Past sin does not define the life of the one whom Christ redeems. Jesus gives us a new identity. This woman is now graced with the dignity and approval of heaven. She is free to be generous in her worship of Jesus.

Truth #4: Generosity Responds to Love with Love.

Two Applications:

1. Receive the grace Jesus offers to forgive you of your sins. Experience His cleansing upon your soul!
2. Respond to Jesus' generosity to you with generosity to those who sin against you.

Five biblical reasons to forgive others:

1. A lack of forgiveness creates misery in your own soul; forgiveness brings joy.
2. A lack of forgiveness corrupts other relationships; forgiveness heals.
3. A lack of forgiveness interrupts our fellowship with God; forgiveness brings intimacy.
4. A lack of forgiveness keeps us from spiritual growth; forgiveness fuels growth.
5. A lack of forgiveness robs Gods of His glory in His church; forgiveness magnifies the LORD.