

Accepting grace, accepting forgiveness

Basic Discipleship

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1. God's Forgiveness

And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."

And Jesus answered and said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” So he said, “Teacher, say it.”

“There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?”
Simon answered and said, “I suppose the one whom he forgave more.”
And He said to him, “You have rightly judged.”

Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.”

Then He said to her, "**Your sins are forgiven.**"

And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves,
"Who is this who even forgives sins?"
Then He said to the woman:
"Your faith has saved you.
Go in peace."
(Luke 7:37-50)

Amen.

Men saw the woman's former state—from before she knew Christ. However, with our Lord, it is not so, for He is loving and full of compassion.

Once she received His mercy, she could not help but praise Him by anointing His feet.

The sinful woman's sins were forgiven.



2. Embracing Grace

What is grace?

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast."
– (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Grace is an undeserved gift bestowed by God through His Son, because of His sacrifice on the cross and His unstoppable, merciful love for us.



3. Understanding Repentance

What does it mean to "repent"?

The Greek word for repentance is *metanoia*, which means a renewal of the mind—a change of direction and mindset. It entails a change of purpose and, specifically, a change regarding sin—that path which separates the follower from the Lord. In short, to repent means to turn away from sin and follow Christ, remaining in Him and in His Word. By doing so will help us avoid falling into sin.



4. Believe

What does it mean to "believe"?

To believe means to trust in Christ Jesus as our Lord and Savior, having faith that He gave Himself for our sins on the cross and rose from the dead; He is not only the Savior of the world, but,
our own personal Savior.



5. Why Should We Repent?

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
(Romans 3:23)

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” – (Romans 6:23)

We repent because we cannot enter heaven while in a state of sin—not even through our good works—since the wages of sin is death and we were condemned; the only One with the power to pay the price for our sins and redeem us is the Son of God,
and He will lead us to God the Father.



6. Who Should Repent?

Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the [a]remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” – (Acts 2:38)

All peoples must repent of sin and receive God’s forgiveness with gratitude. All are called to repentance; no one is worthy to save the world—or even a single soul from eternal death,
except the Lord alone.”



7. Reassurance

What is reassurance?

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
(1 John 1:9)

This signifies coming into His presence with a contrite heart, wherever we may be, and repenting of any sin we have committed; the Lord is faithful and grants us His forgiveness.

For thus says the Lord in John 10:28:

"And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;
neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

Our salvation belongs solely to the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



8. Worship

Worship and Praise to the Lord

"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
(John 4:24)

We worship the Lord out of gratitude for His mercies.

Summary

Due to the nature of our flesh, we are all like the sinful woman who received God's grace: her sins were forgiven, and she began to worship the Lord with all her heart, anointing His feet with costly perfume—equivalent to a year's wages at that time—which could not even compare to the true price of our own transgressions.

The woman understood God's grace,
and the forgiveness of her many sins.

Prayer

Thank You, God and Lord, for granting me Your grace; I repent of my sins and acknowledge that I need Your forgiveness. Forgive me.
Today, I want to make a fresh start in Your ways.
I treasure Your grace and want to know You more; please transform my heart and my life. I surrender all my worries, my family, and my future to You. I receive Your grace, Your peace, and Your joy.
I pray in the powerful name of the Lord Christ Jesus of Nazareth.
Amen.



AMEN

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