

Priming the Pump

1. Begin by reading the Scripture for this week's message, Luke 7:36-50.
2. Have you ever been invited to a meal or coffee, knowing that the host was hostile to you or looking to trap you in your words during conversation? How did you handle this difficult conversation?

Getting into the Word

3. Shedding tears, weeping, and crying are often used as word pictures for great emotion in the Bible, as in our passage this week. Compare and contrast the deep emotional tears in Hebrews 5:7-8 with those in Hebrews 12:15-17. How are they the same and how are they different?
4. The Pharisees made an issue of being touched by or even near "sinners". This was a man-made tradition that Jesus broke often. Read some of the times that Jesus either broke or taught against these man-made rules and note down your thoughts of why He made a public display of doing so.
 - a. Matthew 9:14-17
 - b. Matthew 12:1-8
 - c. Matthew 12:9-13
 - d. Matthew 15:1-2, 10-12, 16-20
 - e. Matthew 19:3-9
 - f. Matthew 23:1-12
 - g. Matthew 23:16-22

5. Jesus was anointed by a woman using costly perfume from an alabaster vial twice during His ministry: near the beginning of His ministry, recorded in our passage, and near the end of His ministry, recorded in Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8. How are these two anointments the same, and how are they different? How did the audiences react, and what was their reasoning?

Digging Deeper

6. During the sermon, Pastor Aaron mentioned that Jesus did not “hang out” with sinners, but did often spend time with them for a specific purpose: to give the good news and teach. Think about relationships you have with unbelievers that consist of mostly “hanging out”. How might you intentionally start using that time to give the Gospel and teach about Jesus?
7. In Jesus’ story, the moneylender “cancelled” the two debts. This Greek word here, CHARIZOMAI, is not an accounting or technical term, but means to do something agreeable, favorable, benevolent, pardoning, do a favor, forgiving, restoring, bestowing. It is related to the Greek words CHARIS “grace” and CHARISMA “gift”.

This word is also used in Ephesians 4:31-32 “forgiving one another” and in Colossians 3:12-13 “forgiving each other” and “as the Lord forgave you”. Read these passages and spend some time meditating on what this means for relating to believers who have offended you. Not in the mechanical sense of wiping the slate clean or ending a grudge, but in a truly gracious, favorable, pardoning sense of benevolence.

What are your thoughts? How can you practice forgiving wrongs in this way? How will this shape your heart to be more like the heart of God?