

March 10, 2024

The Purity of Jesus

by George Slover

“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 7:48-50)

The words above – “your sins are forgiven” are the sweetest words God could ever utter and man could ever hear. The knowledge of being forgiven is truly a blessing. But there is another important lesson we learn from this great story – it is a revelation of the character of the one that spoke those words!

During Jesus’ second year of public ministry he was invited to the home of Simon, a Pharisee. The exact reason for this invitation is not revealed. Perhaps Simon saw potential in Jesus or perhaps he was just curious. After the guest arrived an uninvited visitor comes into the room. This woman, rightly identified as a sinner, throws herself at Jesus’ feet. She anoints his feet with a precious ointment and wipes them with her tears and her hair. Simon and his other guest are scandalized by her presence. Every eye in that room was focused on her, but the eyes of Jesus. Jesus appreciative of this woman’s devotion and disappointed in the attitude of Simon is instead looking at Simon!

One can only imagine how Simon must have felt when Jesus gave that piercing look and said, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” The important lesson here about gratefulness is illustrated by both a parable as well as the conduct of the woman.

However, the pure motive of Jesus is also revealed.

Jesus is the only one in this setting that seems perfectly comfortable. He, unlike Simon and friends, has no agenda except to redeem man from sin. He has perfect love and appreciation for the woman’s undivided devotion. He has genuine concern for Simon and his hypocrisy. How many times in Jesus’ ministry did he touch a heart by saying, “your sins are forgiven, go sin no more”? How many times did convict the sinner with piercing words?

So what about my life? He is to be my example! Have I so distorted the image so that I can pursue my selfish ambitions? Jesus did not just die so that I could be forgiven! He gave me the challenge of a higher life! He wants me to be pure in heart just like him!

Our Core Needs

by Rickie Jenkins

There may be more, but at least, there are five core needs all people need. Consider the need of security. Who can I trust? Who will keep me safe? There is the need of identity. Who am I? Also, there is the need of belonging. Who wants me? Again, there is the need of purpose. Why am I alive? Finally, there is the need of competence. What do I do well? Every one of those needs can be and is met by God.

God provides the ultimate security. No matter how secure we try to make our

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Ladies’ Class - Tuesday, March 12 at 10 a.m.

Our Next Gospel Meeting is scheduled for March 24-27 with David Raif

Gospel Meeting - Leon Valley with Warren Berkley, April 14-17

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

homes, our cars, and our everyday lives, there is always the opportunity for danger to prey upon us. It is when we put our trust in people who are not trustworthy and who influence us to love the world instead of the Father, that we become insecure. God offers security that no man can take away. We may be impacted by events that affect the outward man, but nothing can remove us from His love. Our inward can find security in Him. We are the most secure when we look to God and rely on Him.

God also provides identity. When we have a negative identity, it is hard to have a change of behavior. Interestingly, what Satan offered Adam and Eve, they already had. Satan said, "You will be like God." They were already like God! God said, "Let us make man in our image." Eating what was forbidden was not going to make them anymore like God than God had already made them. Our identity is found in who He made us to be. He made us to be like Him. He gives us our identity.

Further, we can be rejected by friends, peers, and even my brethren, but a child of God belongs to God. If our need to belong is filled through pleasing others and their approval, then we will do what is necessary to fit in. We will live like the world because that is our god. Our morals and convictions will be changed to suit that desire to belong. Conversely, when we have that close, growing relationship with God, our morals, our will, and our convictions will be changed to please Him. In Him we find our true place of belonging. No matter who may hurt us or cut us off, our sense of belonging is fulfilled when we are filled with the fulness of God.

Consider, we also find our purpose when we give ourselves and our passion to Him. We must face it. We are not in control. Our purpose is to grow to be like Him. That is what we were created to be in the beginning. God did not spare His son to forgive us, so we could grow to be like Him.

Finally, our greatest competence is when we use our God given abilities and heart to serve Him and others. The one thing we can do well is strive to please Him always in all

things. Our greatest competence is found when we deny ourselves.

Through our relationship with God, all our core needs are met. No one stands alone. No one needs to feel insecure, lost in who we are, wondering, without a sense of belonging, wandering aimlessly without purpose and be incompetent. God provides all we need.

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson's lymphoma has returned and is suffering cognitive and balance issues.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still on constant oxygen. He recently fell but is ok.

Debbie McMurray is isolating at home after her therapies and compromised immune system.

Terry Behrns is recovering at his sister's home

Elaine Kersh is in Granite Mesa Room 308.

Anna's Sister passed away this past week.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

Evangelist

Darrell Trammel
512-756-4493 Office
Darrell@
oakswestchurchofChrist.com

Elders

George Gresham
Darrell Trammel

Contact Us

Address:
P.O. Box 675
Burnet, TX 78611

Call:
(512) 756-4493

E-Mail:
oakswestchurch@gmail.com

Website:
oakswestchurchofchrist.com