

“Imagine...A Church that Forgives”

Message #3 in the series “Imagine”

Luke 7:36-50

If love is the language of the Kingdom of God,  
forgiveness is the way we best \_\_\_\_\_.

**aphiemi** == *apo* (“from”) + *hiemi* (“to send”) == “to forgive” = “to release someone from responsibility for the offense they have perpetrated, or for a debt they have accrued.”

**Notes from Today’s Message:**

1. Forgiveness is a \_\_\_\_\_ process rather than a \_\_\_\_\_ one.
  - Only a person who has been forgiven can see brokenness in someone else. (v. 44)
2. Whether we see it or not, you and I are those who have the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Only a person who has received grace can offer grace to others. (v. 44-48)

*There is no debt Jesus cannot cancel.*

*There is no sin Jesus cannot forgive.*

*Imagine a church where forgiveness is our second language.*

**Luke 7:36-50 (NRSV)**

<sup>36</sup> One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee’s house and took his place at the table. <sup>37</sup> And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. <sup>38</sup> She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. <sup>39</sup> Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him—that she is a sinner.” <sup>40</sup> Jesus spoke up and said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” “Teacher,” he replied, “speak.” <sup>41</sup> “A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup> When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?” <sup>43</sup> Simon answered, “I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt.” And Jesus said to him, “You have judged rightly.” <sup>44</sup> Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. <sup>45</sup> You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. <sup>46</sup> You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. <sup>47</sup> Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little.” <sup>48</sup> Then he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” <sup>49</sup> But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” <sup>50</sup> And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

**FOR GROW GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:**

1. What stuck out most for you from today's message?
2. Who should you share this content with? When will you share it?
3. What one thing from today's message will you apply to your life this week?
4. Who is one person you might invite to come to church with you next week? How will you invite them?