

Who Can Forgive Sins?

Luke 7:36-50

1

The Context

- Jesus was invited to Simon's house
- Simon, A Pharisee – see verses 39-40
- The woman, "A Sinner" – see verse 37
 - Luke 5:32 – "... sinners to repentance"
- The controversial statement of Jesus
 - He declares that the woman's sins are forgiven – see verses 47-48
 - This is called in question by others who were there – see verse 49

2

The Divine Answer To The Question

- A question regarding Jesus
 - Verse 49 – "Who is this, who even forgives sins?"
 - A similar question was asked in another situation
 - Luke 5:20-21 – "Who can forgive sins but God alone?"
- This is a question regarding forgiveness
 - Man forgiving sin = Blasphemy
 - See verse 21 above
 - Leviticus 24:16 – "... be put to death"
- But Jesus had both the power and the authority
 - Luke 5:22-25 – "... the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"

3

The Divine Answer To The Question

- The only logical and honest conclusion
- Forgiveness is in God's power
 - Psalms 51:4 – "Against you, you only, have I sinned"
 - I John 3:4 – "sin is lawlessness"
 - Mark 11:25 – "may forgive you your trespasses"
 - Psalms 130:3-4 – "... with you there is forgiveness"
- Because Jesus showed that he had this authority, He was/is God
 - John 10:28-39 – "I and the Father are one"

4

The Application To Us

- Forgiveness is not of man
 - It hasn't been delegated to him
 - John 20:23 – "they are forgiven ... it is withheld"
 - Acts 2:38 – "the forgiveness of your sins"
 - Acts 3:19 – "that your sins may be blotted out"
 - Acts 10:43 – "... receives forgiveness of sins through his name"
- We are to **teach** the message of forgiveness
 - Luke 24:46-48 – "... repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name ..."

5

The Application To Us

- Forgiveness must be sought from God
 - Through Jesus Christ
 - Acts 13:36-39 – "... through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed ..."
 - Ephesians 1:7 – "... forgiveness of our trespasses"
 - As Christians, we must appeal to God
 - I John 1:8-10 – "he is faithful and just to forgive us"
 - Acts 8:22-24 – "... may be forgiven you"
 - Hebrews 4:14-16 – "that we may receive mercy"
- We must forgive to be forgiven
 - Matthew 6:14-15 – "... if you forgive others ..."
 - Mark 11:25 – "... may forgive you your trespasses"

6

The Way To Obey God

- Hear the Word of God
 - James 1:21 – “Wherefore putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”
- Believe that Jesus is the Savior
 - Hebrews 11:6 – “And without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing (unto him); for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and (that) he is a rewarder of them that seek after him.”
- Repent of your sins
 - Acts 3:19 – “Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”

7

The Way To Obey God

- Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
 - Matthew 10:32 – “Every one therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven.”
- Be immersed in water
 - Acts 2:38 – “And Peter (said) unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
- Remain faithful
 - Hebrews 3:14 – “... if we hold fast the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end”

8