

Harmony of the Gospels

Part 39

“He Freely Forgave”

\$8,915,198,289,874.79

8 Trillion, 915 Billion, 198 Million, 289 Thousand, 874 Dollars, and 79 Cents.

Did you know that This how much debt you owe...

This is the **“National Debt”**.

It is the amount of debt that the United States Owes...**Oh and by the way, you are the United States**, Remember, **“A Government by the people and for the people...”**

The estimated population of the United States is **302,602,107** so each citizen's share of this debt is **\$29,461.79**.

The Government of the United States of America would like to know when they can expect payment from you!

The National Debt has continued to increase an average of **\$1.33 billion per day** since September 29, 2006!

- ☞ **A debt so huge** that it is almost unimaginable!
- ☞ **If you spent 10 million dollars a day**, every day of your life, you could never even come close to spending 8 Trillion Dollars, that is how big that amount is.

And yet, 8 Trillion dollars is a tiny speck compared to the debt that each individual human being owes to God for their own personal sin.

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Sin is defined as:

1. An act, a thought, or behavior that goes against the law of God.

The word “Sin” or “Sinner” came from the Old English definition of someone who “Missed the Mark”.

- ⊕ **When someone** would take a bow and arrow and shoot it towards the Bull’s-eye of a target, if they missed the Bull’s-eye, they were said to be “**A Sinner**”, someone who missed the mark of perfection.
- ⊕ **The Bible says** that every human being ever born, has “Missed the Mark of perfection and is a sinner.

Now, when we sin, even though we might sin against someone else, all sin is really an offense against God.

On Wednesday night we discussed the fact that when David committed adultery with Bathsheba and then had Uriah her husband killed, Even though those sins were directed at Uriah and Bathsheba, notice what David said to God about what he did:

Psalms 51:2-4

2 Wash me thoroughly from **my iniquity**, And cleanse me from **my sin**.

3 For I acknowledge **my transgressions**, And **my sin** is always before me.

4 **Against You, You only, have I sinned**, And done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.

David had it just right, all sin that we do, is really an offense at God. Our sins are offenses against His creation, and are personally offensive to Him.

- ⊕ **It would be similar** to me building a beautiful structure and then someone coming along and defacing or damaging my structure, that would be a personal offense to me.
- ⊕ **If you landscaped your yard** with beautiful trees, and flowers and someone came along and ran their car over your beautiful yard, you would be offended.
- ⊕ **You and I were MADE** in the image of God, we are **HIS Building, or structure**, and when we deface or damage His structure, He is offended.

He made us, He made everything, and we are obligated to Him to be perfect in our behavior, even as He is perfect, because that is what He requires.

- ⊕ **Now, if you say** that you don’t like His rules, consider that:
- ⊕ **Everyday you live on His earth**, in his Solar system, in His Milky Way Galaxy, in His Universe.
- ⊕ **You are alive today** because you are breathing His air.
- ⊕ **Running through the veins** in the body that you occupy, that was loaned to you, is His blood, His life.
- ⊕ **Your heart beats** because He makes it beat.
- ⊕ **You have lived this long** because He allowed you to live this long.

So if you don't like His rules, you are free to create your own body to live in, and create your own universe to live in...but if you cannot do that, you are obligated to live the way the Lord designed you to live.

One day a scientist told the Lord that he believed that he had this whole creation thing figured out and that he was ready to challenge God.

The scientist began to explain to the Lord how man now knows **how to create life out of nothing**, in other words, *“like you did it God in the beginning...from the dust of the ground.”*

“Really”, the Lord tells the scientists, **“Show me how you do it..”**

Excited now that he has Gods attention, the scientist begins to explain that all he need to do is repeat what God did in the beginning, **take some dirt and create a man...**so he bends down and begins to pick up some dirt from the ground...

“Oh no you don't”, the Lord tells the scientist, **“you go make your own dirt...”**

The Bible says in Genesis 1:1

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth

The Holy Spirit used a very interesting word in the Hebrew language that Genesis was first written in, for the word “Created”...

- ☞ **It is “Bara”.**
- ☞ **“Bara” means** *“To create something from nothing”.*
- ☞ **How** do you do that?
- ☞ **When man makes something**, he has to assemble certain materials and put them together in just the right combination to make or create something.
- ☞ **But when Jesus created the Universe**, He did it from NOTHING!
- ☞ **Jesus just spoke**, *“Light be”*, and light was.

So, this is the Lords Universe, He created it, He makes the rules, the rules are: every human being is accountable to God for their actions, their words, their deeds.

- ☞ **Your Body, Soul, And Spirit** belong to God, He loaned it to you...

Ezekiel 18:4

“Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die

When your life is over on the earth, the Lord will take your Spirit out of your body and place it where you decided during this life, you wanted it placed.

- ☞ **With Him.**
- ☞ **Apart from Him.**

I have often wondered why people who want to live their whole lives **apart** from the Lord, suddenly at the moment of death **want to be with Him** in Heaven forever!

Don't miss this important point, The Creator of the Universe demands perfection from his creation.

- ☞ **You must be perfect** if you want to live forever in Heaven with the creator of all things.
- ☞ **That is His rule**, not mine, **so don't get mad at me.**

Psalms 24:1-4

- 1 The earth is the LORD'S, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.
- 2 For He has founded it upon the seas, And established it upon the waters.
- 3 Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place?
- 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully

Who can ascend into the presence of the Lord in Heaven?

- ☞ **Only those** who have clean hands and a pure heart.
- ☞ **That pretty much does it...no one ever born has clean hands and a pure heart**, except Jesus.
- ☞ **Who makes it to heaven**, The one who has not sworn deceitfully, the one who has not lied.
- ☞ **Every person** has lied.
- ☞ Even Little tiny toddlers know how to lie...
- ☞ "Did you eat the cookie? "No I didn't eat the cookie"

Picture of a Kid with a Cookie

Now I know what you are thinking..."If we have to be perfect in all of our words, actions and attitudes to get into heaven, then none of us is ever going to heaven..."

EXACTLY!

Ephesians 2

- 1 And you He **made alive**, who **were dead** in trespasses and sins,
- 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to **the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,
- 3 among whom also **we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh**, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.
- 4 But **God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love** with which He loved us,

5 **even when we were dead** in trespasses, **made us alive** together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

6 and raised us up together, and **made us sit together in the heavenly places** in Christ Jesus,

7 that **in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace** in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

8 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.

These 8 verses from Ephesians say that all human beings had the exact same destiny: “Dead in their sins”.

But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)

Because this Creator of all things Loves you so much, He did something about this problem we have of not being perfect....

1 Corinthians 1:30

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who **became for us** ... righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

Jesus is the Creator of all things, the Bible says, He came to earth and became one of us, a human being, and because He is one of us, He was able to become all the things that we can never become on our own.

- ☞ **Righteousness.**
- ☞ **Sanctification.** (Being Set Apart for God)
- ☞ **Redemption.**

When you surrender your life to Jesus Christ and believe that his death on the Cross paid for all your sins, you become PERFECT FOREVER...

Now you are qualified to enter heaven, not because of anything you did, but because of what Jesus has done for you.

This brings us to our study this morning...

The problem with the human race is that we either Don't know these things, or we don't believe these things about ourselves.

- ☞ We don't believe we are sinners.
- ☞ We don't believe we are lost.
- ☞ We don't see ourselves the way that God sees us, as lost with no hope of being saved.

We think that we really are not that bad.

- ☞ **Because we take a look at the world** around us and see that there are a lot of people worse than us.
- ☞ **So we can justify** our actions.
- ☞ **The problem is** that all the people that we are looking at that are either better than us or worse than us, are still LOST TOO!

We must see ourselves the way the Lord sees us, or there is not hope of eternal life for us

Revelation 3:17

Because you say, “I ... have need of nothing”—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked...

This is the entire Battle that we who teach the word of God face, getting people to see themselves in the way that God sees them, apart from Jesus Christ we all are Wretched, Miserable, poor, blind and naked...”

As we come to Luke chapter 7, we find a woman who has come to the end of herself and finally sees herself as a Sinner, lost and broken, with no hope of being saved...

Until she meets Jesus...

LUKE 7:36-50

36 Then one of the **Pharisees** asked Jesus to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat.

37 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**,

38 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.

Can you see this scene in your mind?

- ☞ **Jesus is invited** to the home of a Pharisee.
- ☞ **A woman** who is known by all the people in the city as “**A Sinner**”, most likely a well known prostitute, she suddenly breaks into the room without being invited, and falls at the feet of Jesus.
- ☞ **She immediately** begins to cry convulsively, from her inner most being, over the brokenness of her own soul.
- ☞ **Her tears run down** upon Jesus feet, realizing that she has made mud from her tears and the dirt that Jesus has picked up walking, she begins to wipe Jesus feet with her hair.
- ☞ **Why** would she do that?

She has come to the end of herself.

- ☞ **There is no more pride left**, she doesn't care who sees her, she wants to be with Jesus.
- ☞ **There is no more self sufficiency**, she is broken, empty, is desperation for Jesus.
- ☞ **She sees herself** the way God sees her, completely lost, without hope.

She has heard and seen Jesus and she believes that He can save her.

- ☞ **May I say to you**, that unless you come to the same place this woman has come to, there is no hope of eternal life for any of us.
- ☞ **But if you have come to this place** that she is at, and you come and fall at the feet of Jesus in sincere sorrow over the way you have lived your life, ask Jesus to save you...HE WILL FORGIVE YOU AND GIVE YOU LIFE EVERLASTING!

Luke 7

39 Now when the Pharisee (Simon) **who had invited Jesus** 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."

This is the way that the world views people who have given their lives over completely to sin...someone to not be touched.

- ☞ **But the world doesn't know** that they are just as bad as the ones they think are hopeless.
- ☞ **The world thinks** that if they do some good, then they are good.
- ☞ **The Bible says** that none of us is Good, we are altogether lost.

Romans 3:10

As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one

Simon doesn't know and cannot see that he is just as bad as this woman is.

- ☞ **He thinks** that because he is a religious leader in Israel, that he is saved.
- ☞ **Listen**, Religion and attempts at being religious can never save anyone.

Late one night, a Religious Leader in Israel called Nicodemus came secretly late at night to Jesus and asked Him a few questions:

John 3

1 There was a man of the Pharisees named **Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.**

2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**"

4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, **I say to you, unless one is born of water (Natural Birth) and the Spirit (Spiritual Birth), he cannot enter the kingdom of God.**

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Do not marvel that I said to you, “You must be born again.’

8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

9 Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “**How can these things be?**”

10 Jesus answered and said to him, “**Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?**

11 Most assuredly, I say to you, **We** speak what **We** know and testify what **We** have seen, and you do not receive **Our** witness.

12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?

13 No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

15 that **whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; **but he who does not believe is condemned already,** because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Here is a very religious leader in Israel and yet he doesn’t know what God requires to enter heaven.

And Simon, the Pharisee, here in our story in Luke chapter 7, is exactly the same kind of man, knows the Word of God, teaches it but is not saved.

- ☞ **Jesus said** that it is not knowledge and being religious that saves a person, “***You must be Born Again***”.
- ☞ **First you are born physically,** then you are born spiritually.
- ☞ **This birth** takes place by the Holy Spirit.

But...this rebirth cannot happen until first the person is broken over their own sin...

Here is what genuine repentance looks like:

Luke 7

37 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,**

38 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.

This woman has come to that place that the Lord needs her to be so that He can save her...broken over her own sin...But Simon still cannot see who he really is...so Jesus continues to teach him by an illustration...

Luke 7

40 And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he said, "Teacher, say it."

41 "There was **a certain creditor who had two debtors**. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty

So we have two people who owe a debt:

- ⊕ **Simon the Pharisee**, who is a righteous, religious man, he thinks that his debt to God is small, say 50 denari, because he lives a righteous life.
- ⊕ **A woman who is a prostitute**, who knows that her debt to God is huge because she has led a life full of sin.

Luke 7

42 "And when **they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both**. Tell Me, therefore, which of them **will love him more?**"

Now Jesus gets to the real heart of the matter.

- ⊕ **Even though** the Pharisee thought that his debt to God was not much, He couldn't repay it.
- ⊕ **Did** you get that?
- ⊕ **It wasn't the size of the debt**, it was that neither the Pharisee or the Woman had the capacity to pay it.

In reality, the debt of both the Religious Pharisee and the Prostitute was the same before God, an unpayable debt.

- ⊕ **But the Pharisee's view** was that his debt was **not that great**.
- ⊕ **While the woman debt** was seen by her **as very great**.

Jesus asks Simon which one will love the one who forgave more?

- ⊕ **Simon says**, "*The one for whom was forgiven more.*"

Luke 7

43 Simon answered and said, "I suppose **the one whom he forgave more**." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged."

They both had a debt that they could not pay, but only one saw themselves the way God saw them...Totally lost, with no hope of salvation.

- ☞ Not the righteous man, he didn't see his need.
- ☞ It was the Sinful woman who saw herself as lost and in need of a Savior.

They were both equal sinners before God, but only one saw themselves correctly...

Because the woman saw herself for who she really is, a lost sinner with no hope, she loved and appreciated what Jesus has done, so much more than the religious Pharisee, who thinks that he is pretty righteous.

- ☞ **Which one are you?**

How do you see yourself?

- ☞ **Not too bad**, a pretty good person.
- ☞ **Or a totally lost** and needy person.

The reality is, we are ALL COMPLETELY LOST...

That is why Jesus came...so that we would see ourselves the way that the woman at Jesus feet saw herself...But not everyone sees themselves this way...

In a moment we are going to take communion together...

1 Corinthians 11:27,29

27 Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord **in an unworthy manner will be guilty** of the body and blood of the Lord.

29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and **drinks judgment to himself**, not discerning the Lord's body

What does it mean to take communion in "An Unworthy Manner?"

- ☞ **To take the juice** and the bread, but not really consider properly what it cost Jesus to make forgiveness possible for you.
- ☞ **To not see yourself** as a lost and hopeless sinner before a Holy God, and desperately need the Lord to cleanse you of your sins.

To just take the communion elements without giving total thought to what Jesus went through, or what His sacrifice really means...

To take communion without acknowledging what it cost Jesus, we will bring judgment to our self by the Lord.

But to properly remember all that Jesus suffered through so that you could be forgiven and to acknowledge before God that you are “*wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked*...apart from Jesus Sacrifice, that is a proper manner to take communion in and it pleases the Lord.