



The One Who Will Love Jesus The Most

MAIN THING

Whoever has been forgiven much will love much

SCRIPTURE

Luke 7:36-50

ICEBREAKER

One thing I would tell my 18-year old self if I could go back in time would be

OPENING THOUGHT

There are two types of people reading this passage- 1) the "50 denarii" people and the 2) "500 denarii" people. What is crucial is that we realize that the "50 denarii" people don't exist. We are ALL "500 denarii" people. Some of us realize it, others of us don't.

People who believe themselves to be in the first category don't really see Jesus' forgiveness as amounting to much at all. After all, their debts weren't really that big, so who really cares about the forgiveness of something you could have taken care of yourself? People in the second category, however, are an entirely different story. The gratitude that flows from a person who has been forgiven an unpayable debt is far greater. Jesus is making a serious point here- people who believe they are "50 denarii" people won't think much of Him at all. They don't realize what they have actually been forgiven from, and it affects their thoughts and beliefs and actions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the one thing that you heard this past Sunday that stuck out to you? Why did it resonate with you like it did?
2. The sermon said that we have two options when approaching Jesus- self-righteousness or gratitude. How are the actions of people with each option different? What does a person who approaches Christ with gratitude do in life?
3. What is one thing you would do for Christ right now, not out of obligation, but simply out of gratitude for what He has done for you?

LIFE APPLICATION

We have all heard of people who "punch the time card" or "check off church on the to-do list" or some other patronizing stuff like that. Those people are acting out of obligation rather than love and gratitude. People who are motivated by obligation will do as little as possible to pass the test or punch the time card. People motivated by gratitude are capable of moving mountains. Gratitude may be the single greatest motivating factor in the world. Christians who realize they are the "500 denarii" people that have been forgiven more than they could ever pay back are capable of the greatest acts of love and service the world has ever seen.

CHALLENGE

As a group, list some of the great things you've seen Christians do in history, or in your life, or around the world. What are things that you as a group can do- not out of obligation, but out of gratitude to Christ?