

## The king of love (my shepherd is).

Message 1: You are my anchor series.

D E Wasake, a servant of Jesus

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### Introduction

In a story we will see, in Luke 7: 47 (NLT), Jesus said:

*“I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.”*

Now you might not know it, but verses such as these were written for me! I am that woman if you care to know my full story. In fact, this entire new season of 12 messages I will preach based on a word from the Lord called “You are my Anchor” as he gave me (on 14/8/22) is going to re-introduce you to an intimate portrait of my Lord and God. Why do I love Jesus so much?

Jesus wooed me first when I was a young child. I acted in church plays and then when I went to a Christian Boarding school, he put me near some of the only devoted followers in my dormitory. He kept up his love for me when at university, he set me up with Christian roommates.

Despite his love for me, I betrayed him.

I loved the world more than him so I started “whoring” I went after alcohol, women, a little bit of drugs too, money and everything I wanted. Sure, I gave him little leftovers of love, such as the time when I was too drunk and thought I would die, I swore to love him, but then when the danger passed, I forgot my vows!

Still, he didn’t give up. It took him 20 years but he finally won me over and in 2017, I had a radical encounter. I have been faithful since then and if you want, you can see my [testimony](#) to understand why I cast my crown before him and declare him the king of love.

Now, the reason many of us are not passionately in love with Jesus is simply what he said: *“he who is forgiven little shows only little love”*. The problem is that we don’t understand just how much he has forgiven us, or if we do, we think he has forgiven us only a little and so we will uncover this in this message, using the story of a woman in the bible, a woman of ill repute- most likely a prostitute.

### Why we love only a little

So, why do we love the Lord only a little? Why do we think we are “good”? To answer this, let’s look at the story which led to Jesus making his “little forgiveness, little love” statement. This is the story:

*One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears*

*fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them.*

*When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!"*

*Then Jesus answered his thoughts. "Simon," he said to the Pharisee, "I have something to say to you."*

*"Go ahead, Teacher," Simon replied.*

*Then Jesus told him this story: "A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?"*

*Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt."*

*"That's right," Jesus said. Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn't offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume.*

*"I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love." Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven." Luke 7: 36 – 48 (NLT)*

## **The ones who are "too good"**

While some of us indeed know we are sinful and need the Lord - like this immoral woman, many of us are like Simon the pharisee in this story, we think others are sinners while we are the good.

We think we are "good" so to speak maybe because we grew up in church, never dabbled in drugs, sex and rock and roll, never did anything "crazy" so to speak. So, because we were or are "good" we don't fully see the sin we commit and so we are half hearted in our love for God, even when we eventually get saved.

Here is a challenge I can offer you. If you really want to experience fiery love for God, try keeping a record of the number of "little sins" you commit, for example:

- **the number of times you are afraid** - fear is a sin by the way (Rev 21: 8) think when you worry about the bills, or the food or the next job.
- **The number of times you murder someone** - hate equals murder by the way (1 John 3: 15). Think trolling, think road rage, think those who annoy you or treat you bad.
- **The number of times you commit adultery** – for fantasizing sexually or lusting about someone is equivalent to adultery (Matthew 5: 28). Think billboards, Tiktok videos, social media, movies, porn, dirty talk.
- **The number of times you tell little lies.** Think exaggerating in stories, think withholding truth, think when you say you are okay but are not, think when you tell your boss or co-workers what they want to hear instead of the truth.

If you counted up these sins, you could find that, at a very low level:

- **Daily you sin 70 times** - roughly estimating just 10 sins per hour over 7 hours ( $70=10*7$ ). As I said, think sins like worry or fear, lust, gossip, lies.
- **Weekly** that's 490 times ( $490 = 70*7$ )
- **Yearly** that's 25, 480 times ( $25,480 = 490*52$  weeks in a year)
- **Lifetime.** In the average life time of someone of 70 years, that's 1,783,600 ( $1,783,600 = 25,480*70$ ).

Now God is so holy and so even 1 sin would send you to eternal destruction, how about almost 2 million sins? So, do you see that when you become a Christian and God forgives, your debt is tremendous?

## The ones who repent

The ones who eventually repent when they realize their sins are often not like those who never repent.

The ones who never repent often think they are good – even when they commit internal sins of the heart, while the ones who repent, often like me – we have committed many of the “crazier” sins like sexual immorality and so we more readily recognise how far we have fallen from the Holy God above.

To show this, let's go back to our story of this immoral woman or prostitute and Jesus. How long passed while this woman was at Jesus' feet crying? What was she thinking this entire time? As Jesus knows our thoughts, how long did he silently watch her at his feet while “reading her thoughts” waiting? 30 minutes? 1 hour? 3 hours? How long did Jewish meals last?

What brought this woman of immoral character to Jesus in the first place anyway, what was she thinking before she came? She probably went through 5 stages, like [the 5 stages of grief](#).

1. **Denial.** We often start by denying that we are sinners. In fact we love our sins, but we don't call them that, we say things like “wild” or “young and free”. What did this prostitute woman typically think? “That customer F\*\*ed me good” “that other one was sh\*\*”. We even justify our sins. What was she thinking? “Everyone in the world sluts themselves out for money in some way, besides the money is really GOOD, I can take care of my family and buy them bread. Other women pretend, and suffer, so nothing wrong with what I am doing, it's for the greater good, a necessary evil, no one can resist the oldest profession in the world, even the bible has “shrine prostitutes.”
2. **Anger.** Next, we get angry. What was the woman now thinking? “I am here because of those damn men; they never give us feminist women chances to make money. It's time for revenge, I will give them an STD for ruining us”. What was she thinking? “I am here because my mother never protected me from my rapist, I hate mum!” “Why did my parents divorce and leave us mentally broken and vulnerable? It is all their fault! These drugs will help me cope with the pain.”
3. **Bargaining.** Then we start making promises, with God, with ourselves that if a situation changes, we will do something else. What was she thinking? Maybe “If the rabbi can forgive me, I will serve him faithfully” What was she thinking? “If Jesus is the Messiah, then he comes from the tribe of Judah and Rahab the prostitute like me, was his ancestor, surely he can change me if he wants.”
4. **Depression.** Before breakthrough comes, we often go through the valley of the shadow of death. What was the woman thinking? “What would mama say if she knew I was doing this?” What kind of role model am I for little brother?” “I am really messed up. Who offers their body for money, who lies and cheats, who takes drugs.” This is

likely the depression that made her think finally: “I will go to Simon’s house, the Messiah is there, I just can’t take it anymore, I need help.”

What was she thinking, when she couldn’t take it anymore? Did she finally started praying, perhaps praying the only prayer she had memorized. The prayer of David, the ancestor of the Messiah.

As if reading her thoughts, the Messiah, reclining at dinner starts telling the story: *“A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. But neither of them could repay him...”* (Luke 7: 41-42)

The tears continue falling, she continues wiping his feet with her hair. The prayer begins:

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters,  
he refreshes my soul.  
(Psalm 23: 1-3)

The Lord continues: *So he kindly forgave them both, cancelling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?”* (Luke 7: 42). She continues praying.

He guides me along the right paths  
for his name’s sake.  
Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.  
(Psalm 23: 4)

The Messiah’s story is starting to get personal; she can hear the voice of the Spirit:

*Then turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn’t offer me water to wash the dust from my feet but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair* (Luke 7: 44).

Meanwhile for the woman, the tears start overflowing, the mercy of the Master is starting to overwhelm her, her prayer is now like a whisper:

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
(Psalm 23: 5)

Jesus’ story reaches a climax: *“I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love.* (Luke 7: 47)

**5. Acceptance.** In the final stage, stage 5, we accept the situation, that we are sinners and that it is okay if we turn to the Lord. What was the woman, formerly a prostitute now thinking? What was happening? It was different tears. Tears of gratitude, of peace now flow and she utters the final words of the prayer:

Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD  
forever.

*(Psalm 23: 6)*

The Master then gives the Amen to her prayer. He ended by saying to the woman:

*“Your sins are forgiven.” (Luke 7: 48).*

## Conclusion

If you knew you had been forgiven 2 million sins by God, in gratefulness:

1. Wouldn't you wipe his feet with your hair?
2. Wouldn't you write him a song or a psalm like psalm 23?
3. Wouldn't you become a zealot like me crying “repent for the kingdom of heaven is near.”

But what can you really give in return to him? Is all the money in the world enough? What can you really give in return for your soul (Mark 8: 37)?

The only thing you can give in return for salvation is an offer of thanksgiving - recognising your shepherd:

1. Who refreshes your soul;
2. Who guides you along the right paths;
3. Who prepares a table for you in the Presence of your enemies;
4. Who guarantees you eternal life – dwelling in his house forever.

Knowing this, like me you can say: “surely the King of love, my shepherd is!”

## The Message Jesus wants me to pass on to you

Do you need the king of love, who is my shepherd to heal you too, like he healed me? My, just so you know is tough on sin – but soft on the individual. All are welcome to his table and his house BUT he calls us to let go of our old sins and what we used to be in the past. In fact, in another place the bible says this:

*“Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were.” I Corinthians 6:9, 10.*

If you are willing to let go of your sins and make them in the past, whatever the sin, the Lord is willing to forgive you, this is the Lord Jesus who was born of a virgin, even if his lineage included sinners like Rahab the prostitute, still he was holy and, on this earth, when he came as the “God- Man” - Immanuel, he went about doing good and preaching the gospel: “repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is near (Matthew 4: 17)”. This kingdom of heaven Jesus spoke of is the inheritance of those who wash their garments clean in his blood – the blood he shed when he died for our sins. This inheritance also being the one he received from his father when he rose from the dead. If you believe that he is alive and can forgive you today, then pray this prayer:

*"God of heaven, I confess that I am a sinner and have been one since birth, but I have heard that you can make me new, and you sent your son Jesus to die for me. He rose again and it is he who can give me his Holy Spirit. Please forgive me and welcome me into your Kingdom, teach me how to follow you. In Jesus' name, Amen"*