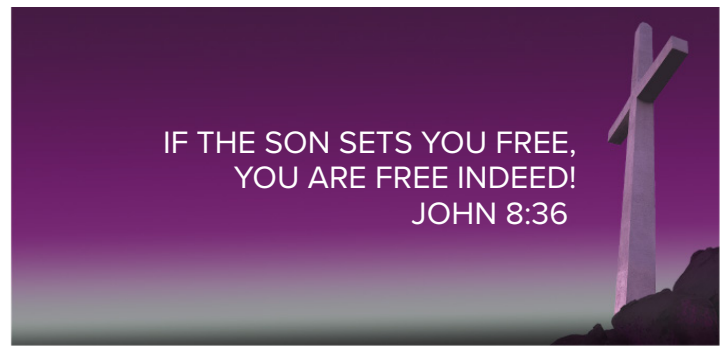


Jesus IOI

“Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

Then He said to her, “Your sins have been forgiven. . . . Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” — Luke 7:48, 50

We excused ourselves and went to a separate room in the house. As a minister, I was about to anoint a man with oil (as instructed in James 5:14, 15), asking God to heal him, if it was His will, and to provide His peace, no matter the outcome. Privately, he discussed with me things that he had done in his youth, which he knew were against God's will. Then he proceeded to tell me that he was in total peace, because he knew that God had forgiven him his sins through Jesus' sacrifice for him. He passed away a few months later. In complete peace.

There is a direct relationship between God's pardon and His peace. Many people live their lives carrying a heavy burden of shame and guilt, while God has offered us forgiveness through the merits and in the name of Jesus. Because Jesus suffered in our place, the core proclamation of the Christian church is “repentance for forgiveness of sins . . . in His name” (see Luke 24:47). Yet many choose to live under the shadow of regret and remorse.

In the story found in Luke 7:36–50, we meet two main characters: a Pharisee and a sinner, an immoral woman. The Pharisee had invited Jesus to dine with him, but the sinful woman came to Jesus with an alabaster vial of perfume to anoint His feet. This provoked a dark thought in the Pharisees' mind: “If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner” (verse 39). Jesus then told him a parable of two debtors, highlighting the woman's actions as an act of love in response to the great forgiveness that she had received. Jesus not only accepted her gift of love but also addressed her directly, publicly proclaiming her newly-found wholeness: “Your sins have been forgiven. . . . Your faith has saved you; go in peace” (verse 48, 50). Even if you have been a public sinner, and everybody knows about it, God's pardon offers you peace and wholeness in the place of shame and despair. He has paid the price of your sin at the cross! Therefore, go in peace!

Talbot, Elizabeth *Jesus Wins!*, p. 190.