



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – January 15, 2012

## ***Heart to Heart...***

The lady walked into the home of Simon the Pharisee. Simon had invited Jesus to eat with him. In front of them was this woman, falling down at the feet of Jesus, her tears wetting His feet while wiping His feet with her hair. She even kissed His feet (Luke 7:36-50).

There sat Simon and he started thinking to himself that if Jesus was really a prophet He would know what sort of woman she was. Jesus responds to Simon's thoughts using an example of two men with debts that both were forgiven of their debts. Jesus asked the question: "***Which one of them therefore will love him more?***" (Luke 7:42) Simon answered by saying the one who was forgiven more. Simon and Jesus looked at this woman. Simon saw a vile and sinful lady that he didn't want to associate with. Jesus saw a broken hearted, repentant lady in need of His forgiveness and he wanted her around. Jesus taught: "***For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little loves little.***" (Luke 7:47)

What are we to learn? Forgiveness **always** begets love!! When one is forgiven, they express their love. Those who are unforgiven will express little love. Simon was blind to forgiveness and love. He could only see what kind of woman she was and questioned Jesus for allowing this to go on. He saw himself as above, better than others, especially her. Jesus saw a forgiven lady. Love was absent in Simon and Jesus knew it! **When sin is present, love is absent!**

Some time back I sat in on a court case between a husband and wife. They both claimed Christianity! Here we were sitting in court at their divorce. I listened to the hateful words thrown out, one to another for all to hear. The unforgiveness of heart from things that had happened in years gone by were hounded upon. It was a spectacle before all present. Several times they threw out the word "Christian" in referring to themselves. The words of Jesus came: "***He who is forgiven little loves little!***" All they wanted to do was hurt one another. They had no idea that **when sin is present, love is absent!** Forgiven people always practice love. The unforgiven will not.

Have we ever hurt God? That's a rather silly question. Of course we have, but let's seriously think about this. When we came to Jesus, our sins were before our eyes and our hearts were hurting because of our sins, what if Jesus would have said, "NO! I will not forgive you!"? We know Jesus would never do that to a sincere, penitent person. What are we to do with His mercy and compassion on us? If we have sin present in our lives, we will not be loving except toward those who love us (Luke 6:32). That's what sinners do!

Sin makes people unforgiving! Sin drives people into attitudes that are less than Christ-like. It makes people hard and creates division in the church. **When sin is present, love is absent! When love is absent, Christ is absent!** If we claim Christ as ours, shouldn't our lives reflect that claim? What are you doing with forgiveness? Do you know you have been forgiven? "***He who is forgiven little loves little!***" This truth needs to be embedded deep in our hearts. Think about it!!!

Brent