



God's Word for Today

Sonja Hunt Ministries

Teaching Letter 43

Remember Where You Came From

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy" (1 Peter 2:9-10 NKJ).

If you are a child of God, saved by faith in God's Son Jesus, you have come a long way, spiritually speaking. You have received great mercy. Some of us know fairly well the depths from which we were saved because we lived distinctly wretched lives before we met Jesus. Some of us accepted Him as young children or at least before we had opportunity to plunge headfirst into sin's ocean depths; therefore, we may have imagined Jesus didn't have far to reach to save us.

The point of remembering and recognizing just how far Jesus did reach to save us is not self-condemnation or self-humiliation. Our past is over and all sins are forgiven. That calls for rejoicing! There is great benefit, however, in gaining and keeping a right perspective of ourselves and what God has done for us. One benefit is a right sense of humility. Another is a greater comprehension of the height, the depth, the width and the length of the love of God. God sent His only Son to die for a world that was lost and perishing, including you and me.

I accepted Jesus at age four, and a time came when I needed to realize that before Jesus saved me I was a citizen of a dark kingdom. Without Jesus I had no hope of eternal life or abundant life—both of which we have now through Him. I needed to let the truth sink in—that Jesus' death was as much required for my sin as for any sinner's. As a lost person—though only four years old—my heart was black and my eyes were blinded to the truth. It took the light of the gospel, the convicting work of the Holy Spirit and the blood of Jesus to change me and to relocate me into God's Kingdom.

Jesus told Paul, in a vision from heaven, that we were in "the power of Satan" (Acts 26:18 NKJ). That's all of us—whether we think we have been forgiven for a little or for a lot. It took the sacrifice of God's only Son—His shed blood—and our acceptance of the gospel by faith to set us free from that power.

There is a danger if anyone thinks he/she has been forgiven of only a little sin. Jesus pointed this out one day as He ate at a Pharisee's house. Luke recorded that "a woman in the city who was a sinner" (meaning a great sinner in their eyes) (Luke 7:37 NKJ) came and washed Jesus' feet with her tears, wiped them with her hair and anointed them with fragrant oil. When Jesus perceived that the Pharisee thought this was very inappropriate, Jesus told him a story.

Jesus said: "Simon, . . . There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?' Simon answered and said, 'I suppose the one whom he forgave more.' And He said to him, 'You have rightly judged.'

"Then He [Jesus] turned to the woman and said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. You did not anoint My head with oil; but this woman has anointed My feet

with fragrant oil. Therefore, I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little” (Luke 7:40-47 NKJ).

The Pharisee thought he had little to be forgiven of—thus He loved Jesus little. He had no comprehension of the darkness of his own soul as a sinner. The Pharisee made the mistake of comparing himself with others. He worked very hard to appear publicly to be a good man and had deceived himself that he was better than others. Jesus said: “. . .No one is good but One, that is, God” (Matthew 19:17 NKJ).

Jesus was asked by a lawyer, “. . . which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the first and great commandment” (Matthew 22:36-38 NKJ). To love God like this, we have to understand first how great is His love for us. The beginning of that knowledge is understanding that He first loved us as sinners—even enemies of God. Jesus died for those lost in darkness, meaning every one of us.

Paul prayed for the Ephesians “that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge . . .” (Ephesians 3:17-18 NKJ). God’s love for us is beyond understanding without revelation of it. We desperately need that revelation. Paul’s prayer tells us it is the love of God which brings stability to us—“being rooted and grounded.” When our world is shaken or we suffer hardship or loss, we can still stand strong and secure in the greatness of God’s love for us.

Nothing can shake us or move us when we comprehend how much God loves us. That is why remembering (even meditating on) His love for us that reached to where we were is important. We can face life with all its challenges, sometimes disappointments and even sometimes tragedies with strength and courage when we know in the depths of our being we are loved greatly. John wrote: “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18 NKJ).

Have you been made perfect in God’s perfect love? How much do you fear? How rooted, grounded and stable are you? That’s your answer. I believe God loves us with all His heart, with all His mind, with all His soul and with all His strength. That’s His perfect, complete love. By comprehending, receiving and meditating on the great love of God, we can grow in our love for Him.

Jesus commanded us to love God with all our hearts, souls and minds for more than one reason. One reason, however, is that it strengthens and stabilizes us to face difficulties and troubles. Many of us don’t make that connection. The Lord once spoke to me about being prepared for a certain trouble that was headed my way. I asked Him how to be prepared for it. He said, “Love Me with all your heart.” It’s foundational, folks. That’s why it’s the first and greatest commandment.

We all have come out of a kingdom of darkness and out of “the power of Satan.” The depth from which we have been saved reveals the greatness of His love for us. That revelation should cause us to grow in love for our Savior. By meditating on and thanking Him for His love daily, loving Him in return, we will become rooted and grounded in love, becoming unshakable and without fear.

Our sin and our plight truly were great—but greater is His love. **SH**

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