

Humble Tears – Luke 7:36-50

1) To Honor a Prophet

2) Undeserved Grace

3) Humble Love Humble Faith

From Anne Graham Lotz -

A few years ago, I found myself groping for a way to explain God's forgiveness to a woman who had been on death row for multiple murders and would be executed within ten hours of my visit.

Tears glistened in her eyes as she looked at me beseechingly, needing assurance of the salvation she had claimed by faith six years earlier. That very night she would be stepping into eternity, and she was desperate for reassurance of her forgiveness by God.

I asked her if she had ever been to the ocean, and she nodded "yes." I asked her if, as she had walked along the shore, she had seen small holes in the sand where ghost crabs had darted in and out. Again, she nodded. I then asked if she had seen any larger holes, like those made by children digging. Beginning to look puzzled, she said "yes," she had seen holes like that. I persisted gently to see if she had ever seen huge holes created by machines dredging a channel or burying pipe lines on the beach. Her brow furrowed as she again acknowledged a quiet "yes."

I then leaned toward her and pressed my point, "Velma, when the tide comes in, what happens to all those holes?" A soft light began to gleam in her eyes, and a smile played at the corner of her lips as I answered my own question. "All the holes are covered equally by the water, aren't they? God's forgiveness is like the tide that washes over all the 'holes' of your sins and covers all your sins equally."

"Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." – Luke 7:47