

Good morning! One of the things I like about Jesus is that He has forgiven all of my sins, even the ones I haven't committed yet. And he did that before I was conceived, before I even committed any sin at all! Knowing that can make me a little complacent about my lifestyle. This was one of the problems that Paul was constantly addressing in the early Church and we must guard against it, too. God's forgiveness is not a free pass to continue in a lifestyle of sin. God knows my tendencies and when He sees me acting up in my waywardness He identifies it. Does He do that with you, too? This morning, let's look together at two incidents in the Bible, one in the Old Testament and one in the new, and see how God deals with this in our lives:

**2 Sam. 11:26-2 Sam 12:1a**

When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. When the period of mourning was over, David sent for her and brought her to the palace, and she became one of his wives. Then she gave birth to a son. But the Lord was displeased with what David had done. So the Lord sent Nathan the prophet to David.

**Luke 7:36-40**

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."

Do you see a connecting feature in these two passages? In our first passage, King David had seen Bathsheba naked, had sex with her and got her pregnant, and then had her husband killed. Things were going pretty well (i.e. he thought he had gotten away with it). But the last sentence of today's passage says, "So the Lord sent Nathan the prophet to David." And why did God send Nathan the prophet to David? To confront him. In the second of today's passages, we read that Jesus had been invited into Simon the Pharisee's home for a meal. We don't know why Simon invited Jesus; all we know is that Jesus was Simon's guest, when this "immoral woman" showed up and lavished attention on Jesus.

The Bible says that Simon said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!" Simon didn't say it out loud---he was thinking it. That's when things get interesting because the Bible tells us that Jesus "answered his thoughts," saying, "Simon, I have something to say to you." Has Jesus ever answered your thoughts? He has answered some of mine---usually when He didn't like what I was thinking! He didn't like what Simon was thinking, either. This morning, I want to remind you that God knows you better than you know yourself. He knows your thoughts as well as He knows your deeds and He will seek you out to do business with you about them. He may be doing just that as you read this: is today a good day for you to repent?