

# TRINITY NEWS

JUNE 13, 2010

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## **Pentecost III. Love and the Capacity to Accept Forgiveness – Luke 7:36-50**

**I**t is always disturbing to meet someone who has the capacity to make us think differently, or at least to question our own ideas. We are prone to be suspicious about those who challenge our spoken or unspoken convictions. This reaction is intensified when they challenge our spiritual convictions. Spiritual convictions relate to the identity, reality and ‘life’ of our eternal soul. John’s Gospel in particular distinguishes between biological life and “eternal life”. That is, between our total physical and psychic being, and the eternal Spirit within the believer that draws us to God, in spite of our more destructive egoistic moments.

The woman who anoints Jesus at Simon the Pharisee’s house draws forgiveness from him for her sins. Jesus often turns Jewish religious ideas upside down. The underside is more beautiful, but also more difficult to decode. The upside-down statement from Christ here is that “the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little”. The traditional teaching was to live a good life, be “righteous” and therefore have less need of forgiveness. Jesus says instead that only a person with genuine love in their heart is ‘big enough’ to accept forgiveness. He connects the capacity to love with the capacity to accept forgiveness.

The love that the woman showed towards Jesus demonstrated that she was worthy of forgiveness and also perhaps capable of forgiving those who may have contributed to her downfall. “Being good” is not wrong, but only goodness fired by love opens the way for forgiveness to travel full circle. The righteous people thought that they had little need of forgiveness because they had been “good”. Jesus says rather that love makes us more conscious of the need to receive and to give forgiveness. It is harder to forgive ourselves than to forgive others, but both require tough inner work in our ‘soul’ to bring healing and peace. Anyone who has not been challenged by Christ has not listened to his teaching and watched him ministering to people. They have missed his exposure of our inner secrets and our defensive evasions of the truth.

Listen to the Master from Galilee, and so much of “the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desire for other things” drop away and a “lightness of being” ensues. Then we treasure the moments of love that are forever new and signposts of hope.

Bishop Arthur Jones

Your prayers are asked in our healing ministry for Beryl Tanner, Diana Croyston, JPeter, Ron Thoburn, Suzanne Jacobson, Ron Jacob, Ema Duhaylongsod, Cena Quiapos, Benjie Conzales, Loy Solasco, Ted Whale, Bonnie SyCip, Fidelia Matthews, Jovel Llagas, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Johnny Manning Jr, Emerinciana Gatela, Amy Gonzales, Augusto Natividad, Janet Johnstone, Richard Kendall, Carrie Angus, Susan Dalmas, Reuben Longid, Avelina Collado, Gloria Domingo, Katsi Araneta, Sunny Cabanang, Christopher John Noppers, Jaqueline Acquiatan, John Aspinall.

**THIS WEEK:**

Monday, June 14.  
*Holiday. Office closed.*  
 Tuesday, June 15.  
 Bible Study, 10am  
 Thursday, June 16.  
 Midweek Eucharist, 10am  
 Bible Study, 7pm, Rectory  
 Sunday, June 20.  
 Regular Eucharist, 7:30 & 9:30

**Next week's  
readings:**  
 Zechariah 12:8-10; 13:1;  
 Psalm 63;  
 Galatians 3:23-29;  
 Luke 9:18-24

	<b>Last Sunday</b>	<b>Year-to-date</b>	<b>Proportionate Budget</b>	<b>2010 Budget</b>
<b>Pledge</b>	P22,500	P1,960,923.68	P1,725,000.00	P3,900,000.00
<b>Loose Plate</b>	P12,315	P423,587.85	P415,769.23	P940,000.00

The church's monthly **Sources & Uses** report is available for viewing in the Church Office. Please look for Maricel. For questions, feel free to email Edison at [edisonyap@gmail.com](mailto:edisonyap@gmail.com)