

A close-up photograph of vibrant green grass blades, each covered with numerous clear, glistening water droplets. The blades are arranged in a dense, overlapping pattern, creating a rich texture and depth of green. The lighting is soft, highlighting the individual droplets and the fine veins on the grass.

**E38**

## **2017 MESSAGE SERIES**

**38 ESSENTIAL PASSAGES IN UNDERSTANDING GOD'S STORY, THEIR STORY, & YOUR STORY.**

*“How can I know I have  
been forgiven?”*

-anonymous



Jesus-

“Therefore, I tell you, her many **sins** have been **forgiven** – for she **loved** much...Your **faith** has **saved** you, go in **peace**.”

Luke 7:47;50

Today:

# Evidence of Forgiveness:

*how Grace transforms a heart!*

The urgency:

*“Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves.”* 2 Cor. 13: 5

*“These things are written...so you may know that you have a eternal life.”* 1 John 5:13

God's Math

Luke 7:36-50

The *need* for forgiveness-

The *evidence* of forgiveness-

The *source* of forgiveness-



Pharisee-

“Who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else...They stood up and prayed about (to) themselves.”

Luke 18:9:11



“There is no doubt that the woman previously heard the preaching of Christ and was deeply moved and believed. She comes to Simon’s house anticipating a chance to make visible her thanks to Christ and confirm forgiveness for her sins. The entire story does not make sense without that background.”

-Ibn al-Tayyid



“If a woman were to go out ‘with her hair unbound’ it would trigger personal and financial disaster. Clearly it was an intolerable offense with dire social consequences.”

Kenneth Bailly



“But no one in the room could miss the meaning of the woman’s gesture. By unloosing her hair, she is making some form of an ultimate pledge of loyalty and servanthood.”

Kenneth Bailly



*In O.T. and N.T. the phrases “canceling a debt” and “forgive a debt/sin” overlap and indeed at times are expressed with the same words.*

*-Peter Amsterdam*

“Every culture has rituals for welcoming guests, and the omission of them in the days of Jesus communicated something very important. In Simon’s case to omit the entire list would be calculated and a pointed insult. The minimum Jesus could expect would be a kiss on the cheek. With these common acts omitted Jesus would have had full right to say, ‘I see I am not welcome here!’ and leave, with justified anger, yet this is not how he responds.”

-K. Bailey



“If Jesus had not been publically humiliated she might not have been in tears...What becomes clear is that her tears are not for her sins but for his public humiliation. She is in anguish because the beautiful person who set her free is being publicly humiliated.”

Kenneth Bailey

At the end of the day Jesus made it clear that both law-keepers and lawbreakers are sinners and equally in need of forgiveness, a forgiveness that he freely offers to all. The woman accepted. Simon's response is unknown.

What **TRUTHS** does God want me to know?

What **QUESTIONS** does God want me to ask?

What **CHANGES** does God want to make in me?





Truth # 1

All of us have a sin debt  
that no one can repay!

“Neither of them had money to pay  
him back...”

Truth # 2

Forgiveness is the result  
of God's grace through  
Christ received by faith!

“her many **sins** have been **forgiven...**Your **faith**  
has **saved** you.”



“The women went home and prepared spices and perfumes for the body of Jesus.” Luke 23:56

God's Math

1 CROSS

+ 3 NAILS

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4 GIVEN

Truth # 3

*Love for Christ is evidence  
of knowing his forgiveness!*

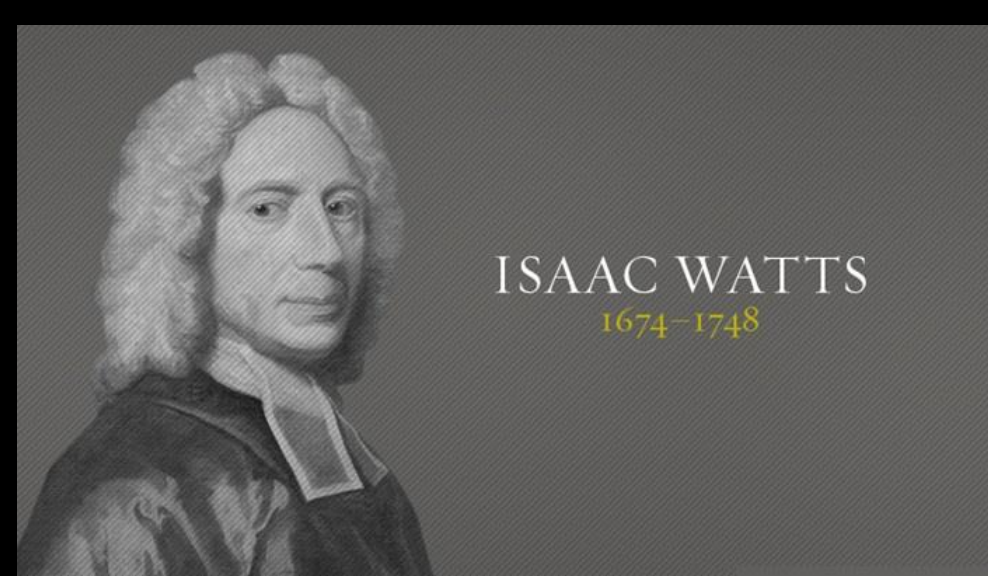
“Therefore, I tell you, her many **sins** have  
been **forgiven** – for she **loved** much...”

# Is this true?

“Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. *The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.*” 1 Tim. 1



The Apostle Paul



ISAAC WATTS  
1674-1748



Is being “forgiven much” the only way to “love much?”





Do I express love for Christ?

Rejoice! Love for Christ is a  
supernatural work of God's grace!

“for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order  
to fulfill his good purpose...”

Phil 2:13

What **CHANGES** does God want to make in me?

From *Achieving* to *Receiving*

From *Doubting* to *Believing*

From *Keeping* to *Telling*

God's Math

1 CROSS

+ 3 NAILS

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4 GIVEN