

“Love Lifted Me Recovery” - January, 2022
Newsletter for October, November, December, 2021
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Web Site: www.Loveliftedmerecovery.com

Jesus’ Lesson on Forgiveness of Sins

Read John 13:6-11. It’s when Jesus was in the upper room at the “Last Supper” before His crucifixion, and He started washing His disciples’ feet, and Peter freaked out. “Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, “Lord, are You washing my feet?” Jesus answered and said to him, “What I am doing **you do not understand now**, but you will know after this. Peter said to Him, “You shall never wash my feet!” Jesus answered him, “**If I do not WASH you, you have no part with Me.** Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!” Jesus said to him, “**He who is BATHED needs only to wash his FEET**, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.” For **He knew who would betray Him**; therefore He said, “**You are not ALL clean.**” What did Jesus mean when He said, “**YOU are NOT ALL CLEAN?**” Peter and the other disciples were “clean” in that their sins were forgiven them, because they believed in Jesus. Jesus tells His disciples that they are all “completely clean” already, **EXCEPT for Judas, who was NEVER a true Believer!**

- **John 6:64** “But there are some of you who do not believe. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.”
- **John 15:3** “You are already clean because of the WORD which I have spoken to you.”

So, what is the main lesson to learn from this? You need to make sure that you are truly saved by having received Jesus as your Lord and Savior. If you have never done that, **just pray and ask Jesus to come into your heart, be your savior, and forgive you from your sins.**

Now, the rest of this lesson is about where Jesus said, “**He who is BATHED needs only to wash his FEET.**” What does Jesus mean, then, by needing “only to wash his feet?” He is teaching by **acting out a truth - that of daily confession of sins for the Believer.** Peter had picked up dirt on his feet through his open sandals, and needed his feet to be washed, just as we must **CONFESS our sins to God DAILY**, because we have “picked up sins” along the way, in our daily walk. And just as Jesus said Peter didn’t need to be bathed all over again, we don’t need to GET SAVED all over again every time we sin! We need to repent, confess our sins, and BELIEVE that He has cleansed us from ALL unrighteousness, so that we can be USEFUL to the Master for whatever work He has for us to do!

- **I John 1:9** “If we CONFESS our SINS, He is faithful and just to FORGIVE us our sins and to CLEANSE us from all unrighteousness.”
- **II Corinthians 7:1** “Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us CLEANSE ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting HOLINESS in the fear of God.”

Monthly Evangelistic Outreach to Venice Beach

Saturday, October 2, 2021 - It was a beautiful fall day, and those who made it for the outreach today were only a small group: Kaela, Michael, me, Tom and Felipe. Tom stayed home to provide prayer cover for us, and the rest of us went down to the Venice Boardwalk. The L. A. County Sheriffs had been moving all the homeless off the Boardwalk for the summer season, and there were still a lot fewer homeless people down there than we were used to seeing over the last few years. We gave out 182 lunches, lots of socks, toiletry/hygiene packets, used clothing (including warm jackets, sweatshirts and some shoes), and several blankets to the homeless. Everyone was very thankful and happy to get the things we gave them. We

told them we were giving it all out in the name of Jesus, and one man said, "If it wasn't for the churches, we would never get anything." We had lots of men's T-shirts, and they were a popular item. Since many homeless were not on the Boardwalk itself, we found some in the alleyways alongside the Boardwalk, and they had their tents set up there. We really had to look and search out the people, and it reminded me of the Scripture that says, "Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that My house may be filled" (Luke 14:23). We had quite a few lunches left over, so we went to another area, a few blocks from the beach, where homeless still had their tents set up, and they were very thankful to get a lunch. We also gave out gospel tracts to people who were not homeless, but just down at the Boardwalk to enjoy a day at the beach (the homeless get a gospel tract in each lunch). We saw a lot of men standing out in the yard of the Phoenix House, a rehab/housing place for men, and asked them if they were allowed to take the gospel tracts we had. They said we would have to ask the supervisor, so we gave him a bunch of tracts, and he said he would give them to the men. All in all, we had a great time and really enjoyed showing the love of Jesus to the many people who were there at the beach.

Saturday, November 6, 2021 - Today, for our monthly outreach to Venice Beach, we had Tom and me, and also Felipe, Ricardo, Victor, Ignacio ("Nacho"), Kaela, Johnny, Jacob and Michael to help us. We had 167 lunches for the homeless. We had made up a few less than before, because there are fewer homeless people down at the beach right now, and also, because we had difficulty getting all the food items for the lunches ("supply chain" problems, and some empty shelves in the stores). We also gave out toiletry/hygiene packets, socks, used clothing, and some blankets to the homeless. Everyone was very thankful to receive the things we were giving out. It was the first time for Nacho, but he said he really enjoyed it. He said one man seemed ashamed to be receiving the food and clothing from us, but Nacho made sure he had eye-contact with the man, and then shared some of his own story, and the homeless man felt better. We found 85-year-old Jean, who lives in her van, and gave her a lunch, a large-print "Our Daily Bread" and a crossword puzzle book. She was delighted. We gave out gospel tracts in English and Spanish to people who were just passing by on the Boardwalk. Also, a man in one of the shops took a tract in English, and when I asked if he spoke another language, he said Arabic. I rooted around in my big bag and found a tract in Arabic, and he was surprised. As we walked on our way back to the car, I saw him reading one of the tracts. Praise the Lord! We had a few lunches left over, and Johnny took some home. He said he likes giving them out during the week, and has had several times where he gave a lunch to someone, and they were extremely thankful, with their faces just lighting up, and a big smile. Tom and I also like to carry a few lunches in the car, and give them out when we see a homeless person.

Saturday, December 4, 2021 - For our beach outreach today, we had Tom, me, Felipe, Jose, Ricardo, Kaela, Johnny, Jacob, Victor, "Nacho" and Sheldon as our ministry team. We had 170 lunches, lots of socks and toiletry/hygiene packets, used clothing and shoes, including many warm, heavy jackets and sweatshirts, and quite a few blankets for the homeless. Everyone was very happy and grateful to receive the things we were giving out. We had one really nice, heavy jacket in a size 4X, so we were looking for a very big guy. A man named John said his friend Floyd was that big, and he wasn't there right now, but he promised to give it to him. When we came back later, I asked if Floyd had come back yet, and John said, no, but he lifted a tarp and showed me where he was keeping the jacket for him. A woman named Jerri Lynn got a lunch, some toiletries and a new blouse. We saw her later wearing the blouse, and I said, "The blouse fits you and looks really nice!" She thanked us again for everything. We stopped at the Phoenix House, a halfway house for men, and as usual, gave a bunch of gospel tracts to the supervisor, because the guys aren't allowed to take any materials directly from people outside their program. As I was telling them about our prison ministry, the supervisor spoke up and said, "I know these pastors, Tom and Dottie.....", and before he could finish the sentence, I said, "I'm Dottie!" I showed him the back of one of our tracts which has our ministry information on it, and he said he had done our 12-Step program while he was in prison. His name is Francisco Hernandez, and he was at Ironwood and Calipatria, and has been out since 2018. He said he was so happy to finally meet us in person, as he remembered the photos of the outreach that we had sent him when he was in prison. After we gave out all the food and

clothing to the homeless on the Boardwalk, we gave out gospel tracts to the people who were just down there enjoying a day at the beach. We had about fifteen or more lunches left after we got back to the car, so we went to one of the streets off of Rose Avenue, and found homeless people in tents, and gave all the rest of the lunches out there. Praise the Lord!

And here are some comments, in his own words, from our newest volunteer, Nacho: "Mornings in Venice, accepting the deepest meaning from the less fortunate, is emotionally and physically moving. For the past two months I've joined Tom and Dottie as we share the love of Christ with the homeless community on the boardwalk. Together with a handful of fellow volunteers, we walk up to tents, sleeping bags, and vehicles to people who live a chapter in their lives directly connected with my years of incarceration. I too felt disconnected, and a deep sense of dread for the many bridges I'd disregarded because of my addictions. I too once believed that I was worthless, and today through the grace of GOD I learned to take my dark days as one chapter of my life and not the meaning of it. With that said, I wanted to share how our day passing out warm clothes and food to some incredible people went this Saturday. Well, I learned how even a less fortunate man takes my story: He asked me why he'd never seen me around before, and I told him "I was locked up 23 years and just started to volunteer one month ago." At that very moment, the very sweater we had handed him came off his shoulder and he handed it to me, saying, 'brotha, you went through so much that you deserve to be warm more than me.' And yes, I felt that he somehow knew I'd suffered in some ways just like him. I told him about the chapters in our lives, of how naive I was to think I knew what I was doing while I was locked up - that I could handle everything that came my way, and with that man I realized that I was saved for this one moment. I was stronger than a person only hearing about my experiences. And I felt the love of GOD, the love He gives us all to share through our chapters our strength in Him."

Prison Ministry

Anthony Villalba, Ironwood State Prison, Blythe, CA - "I feel blessed that the good Lord has placed you in my life. I've been able to come along on my journey into recovery from a personal perspective with God. I've just finished Step 2, seeing that God loves me and wants the best for me, and it has shown me that I am not alone in the world. I always felt alone, but seeing and believing that God can change my life has helped me climb out of the pit that I was in. It's a great feeling. Thank you for being good teachers for me and showing me what a recovering person is like with God's help. With love, your brother in Christ, Anthony"

Michelle Dufur, Central California Women's Facility, Chowchilla, CA - "Thank you so much for coming into my life. This has been the best 12-Step program I've done, because you brought God and His word together with the 12-Steps. I have learned so much about myself through your program. You two are a true blessing to us all. I would love to continue Bible studies with you, and I'll start with any one you choose. Thank you for caring about us incarcerated folks, and God bless. Love, Michelle"

James E. Caldwell, Valley State Prison, Chowchilla, CA - "I have truly enjoyed participating in your 12-Step recovery program, and I wish to continue with you in the Bible study courses. Everything you've done for me is more than I could've imagined when I first started. God truly is good! I've learned so much about myself and why I was behaving the way I was. Am I healed? I can honestly answer by saying, "No." However, I have a better understanding and the tools I'll require to keep on my road of sobriety. I understand that my battle is much more than the physical, it's spiritual, too. My trust and faith in God will be my guide, strength and buckler. Respectfully, James"

Daniella Lopez, Central California Women's Facility, Chowchilla, CA - "Oh my goodness, I am so thankful for you guys! I read your letter you had included with my lessons, and I am so thankful and feel

great that we can be connected and have a relationship and support system for one another. I've done correspondence courses through the mail before, but it really didn't feel personalized or that the person at the other end was even there. I've been in prison for about thirteen years, and am really focused on getting my life together. I recently, within the last year, started really putting my faith in God. You guys remind me that there are good people in this world, and that not all "good" people are judgmental. You reassure me what life is really about, and that God does love us and is real. Love, Daniella"

Pasqual Campos, Folsom State Prison, Represa, CA - "Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your 12-Step program. It was a long ride, but all worth it, because I learned so much. My relationship with God can and will help me overcome any adversity thrown my way. Now that I've finished the 12-Steps, I would like to do a Bible study course. Feel free to send me whichever one. Respectfully, Pasqual Campos"

Joseph A. Martin, Pleasant Valley State Prison, Coalinga, CA - "Thank you both for coming into my life and helping me restore my faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and also my faith in humanity. Thank you for the lessons - they made me understand why I became a Christian in the first place, and showed me the spiritual foundation I need and have needed for so long. I know now that I have a purpose, and peace, and I love feeling this way. It seriously pains me to think about the time I stepped away from the word of our Lord and Savior. Just picking up my Bible in the mornings and evenings makes me feel whole again. Thank you so much for helping me get back on the right track. Love, your brother in Christ, Joey"

Earl A. Reed, Folsom State Prison, Represa, CA - "I'm so sorry that I've not been writing to you like I'm supposed to, but I've been going through a lot here. I did not know what to do at times, but what is crazy is that your letters always come at the right time. That is a gift from God - He knew how hard I'm trying to make it in here. Your letters always show me there are people out there that still care about us in here. Some of us don't have that, so it means a lot to us. So I just want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. Love, Mr. Earl A. Reed"

David Ry, Valley State Prison, Chowchilla, CA - "I cannot stress how much I admire your work in God's name. I read your last newsletter, and it helped me find peace tremendously. I was really confused and going back and forth in my head over the adversity and negativity of being in prison. In John 14:27 Jesus says, "Let not your heart be troubled", and that calmed me and I know He overcame the world. He also said to "Be of good cheer" so that's what I'm going to do. I have to remain joyful, because of who I am in Christ. I have peace in the midst of tribulations. Love, David Ry"

Benny Perez, Pleasant Valley State Prison, Coalinga, CA - "Glory and thanks be to our Lord Jesus Christ! I've had a very difficult time these last few months, and quite honestly I fell into a funk. Recently, I just picked myself up and started to push forward. I know it's the power of God and His promises in His word that will carry me through the fire. He is my Rock and my strength when I have none. I got up and did my Bible studies and Steps 1, 2 & 3 lessons that you sent me, and it helped me more than these words can express. He humbled me, and I started to feel Him set me free from all that I was going through. All the pain, hurt, sadness, fear and loneliness dissipated. Thank you and God bless you. Benny"

Thank You to our Ministry Supporters!

We want to acknowledge our ministry supporters, as we could not do any of this ministry without you. Those who support us financially, or with prayer, or by going out on the outreach, or by giving us toiletries, socks, or clothing, you are all loved and blessed by God, and we love and appreciate you so much! You will receive rewards in heaven for your part in every soul that is saved, or Christian who is encouraged and restored to fellowship with the Lord.