

Parable of the Two Debtors

Luke 7:36-50

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EV Free Church Walnut
July 14, 2024



How do you know that
God loves you?

How does God know that
you love Him?

Is there a way that God
can **measure** how much
we love Him?

Is there a way that God
can **measure** how much
we love Him?



Matthew 22:37–38

³⁷And He said to him, “ ‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ ³⁸“This is **the great and foremost commandment.**

Matthew 22:37–38

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Luke 7:36-50

³⁶Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him, and He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, ³⁸and standing behind Him at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume.

Luke 7:36-50

³⁹Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner.” ⁴⁰And Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” And he replied, “Say it, Teacher.” ⁴¹“A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

Luke 7:36-50

⁴²“When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?” ⁴³Simon answered and said, “I suppose the one whom he forgave more.” And He said to him, “You have judged correctly.”

⁴⁴Turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵“You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet.

Luke 7:36-50

⁴⁶“You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume. ⁴⁷“For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.” ⁴⁸Then He said to her, “Your sins have been forgiven.” ⁴⁹Those who were reclining at the table with Him began to say to themselves, “Who is this man who even forgives sins?” ⁵⁰And He said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Outline

1. The Story Narrative (v. 36-39)
2. The Parable (v. 40-42)
3. The Observations, Lessons, and Conclusions (v. 43-50)

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1. The Story Narrative (v. 36-39)

2. The Parable (v. 40-42) ← **most important**

3. The Observations, Lessons, and Conclusions (v. 43-50)

Context

1. Jesus is a VIP guest.
(Known for healing people, raising the dead, drawing immense crowds, etc)
2. Simon the Pharisee invites Jesus over for dinner, perhaps to entrap him.
3. VIP dinners were open affairs.
(Onlookers permitted to observe.)



Narrative

1. The Setting (v. 36)

Luke 7:36 Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him, and He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.



Narrative

1. The Setting (v. 36)

2. Drama begins when the woman appears and gets emotional (v. 37-38)

³⁷And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, ...



Luke 7:37-38

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Luke 7:37-38

³⁷And there was a woman **in the city** who was **a sinner**; and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, ³⁸and **standing behind Him at His feet, weeping**, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume.

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Luke 7:38

³⁸and **standing behind Him at His feet, weeping**, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume.

***indecent, disgusting, humiliating,
embarrassing spectacle***



Narrative

1. The Setting (v. 36)
2. Drama begins when the woman appears and gets emotional (v. 37-38)
3. The Parable of the Two Debtors is set up by the Pharisee's judgement (v. 39)

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5. Jesus' Observations (v. 43-46)

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- 7. Concluding Narrative (v. 48-50)**

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7. Concluding Narrative (v. 48-50)

Luke 7:41-43 (The Parable)

⁴¹“A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty.

⁴²“When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?” ⁴³Simon answered and said, “I suppose the one whom he forgave more.”

Two Debtors

Debtor

Can't pay back debt.

Debt forgiven.

Debtor

Can't pay back debt.

Debt forgiven.

Two Debtors

Debtor

Owes 500 denarii.

Can't pay back debt.

Debt forgiven.

Responds with
more love

Debtor

Owes 50 denarii.

Can't pay back debt.

Debt forgiven.

Responds with
less love

Luke 7:42

⁴²“When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So **which of them will love him more?**”

Luke 7:42-43

⁴²“When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So **which of them will love him more?**”

⁴³Simon answered and said, “I suppose the one whom he forgave more.” And He said to him, “**You have judged correctly.**”

Luke 7:44-46

⁴⁴Turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵“You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet. ⁴⁶“You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume.

Luke 7:44-46 Pharisee vs woman

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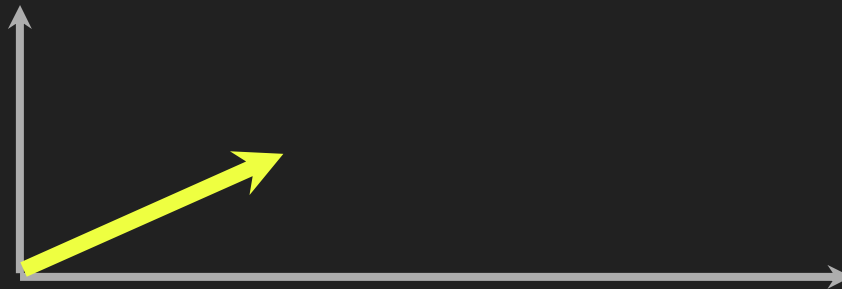
Luke 7:47 (key verse)

⁴⁷“For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but **he who is forgiven little, loves little.**”

How much we love God

47“... he who is forgiven little, loves little.”

47“... loves little.”



47“... he who is forgiven little...”

Luke 7:39

³⁹Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner.”

How much sin does
each of the characters
feel they have?



Love is a

“Tell”!

Luke 7:47

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Which comes first?

- Your love for God?
- His forgiveness of our sins?

Which comes first?

“We love, because **He first loved us.**”

1 John 4:19

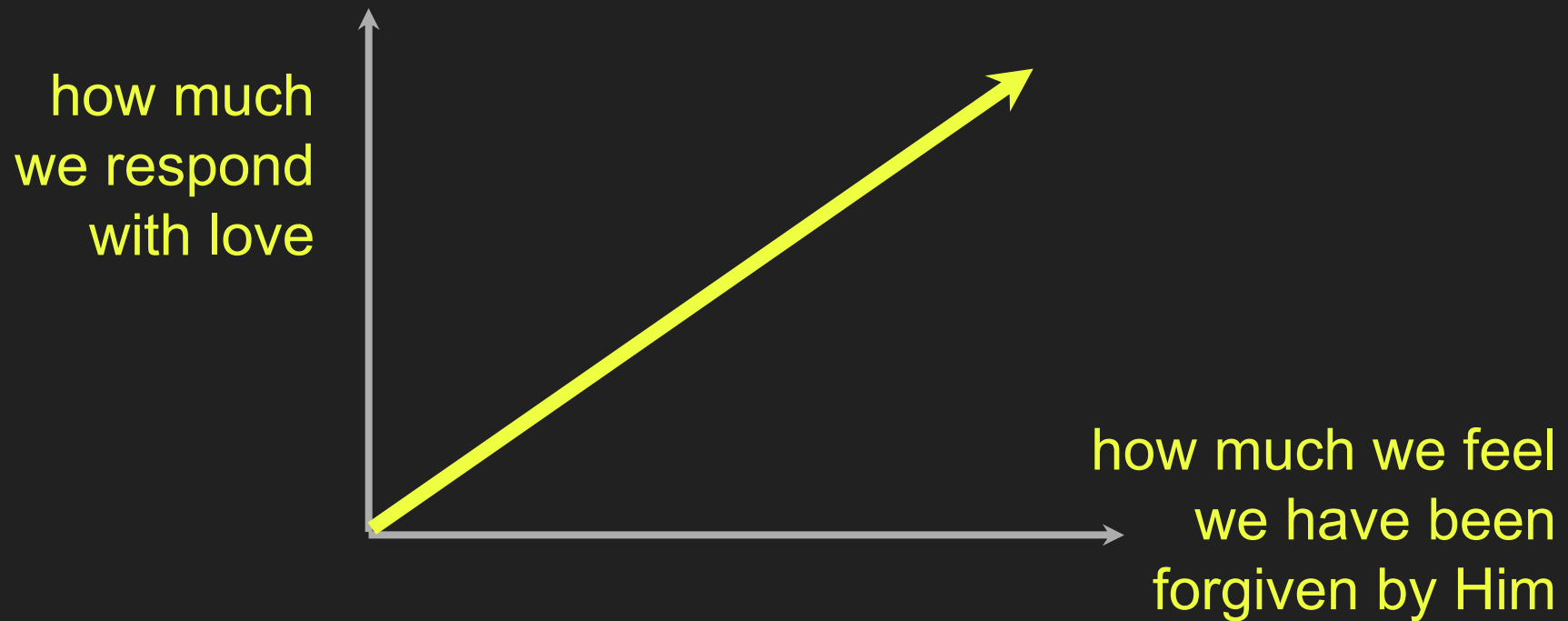
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1 John 4:19

We respond with love back.

How much we love God



Luke 7:47

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Luke 7:47 “for” = Greek “ὅτι”

⁴⁷“For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, **for** she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.”

Strong’s 3754. ὅτι hōti, hot’-ee; neut. of 3748 as conjunc.; demonst. that (sometimes redundant); caus. because:— as concerning that, as though, because (that), for (that), how (that), (in) that, though, why.

Luke 7:47 “for” = Greek “ὅτι”

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“**for**” can be read in two ways:

1. Her sins have been forgiven **for** she loved much.
2. Her sins have been forgiven **because** she loved much.

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1. Her sins have been forgiven **for** she loved much.
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reason or cause

proof

Jesus made the first move

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were yet sinners**, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8

“We love, because **He first loved us.**”

1 John 4:19

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⁵⁰And He said to the woman,
“Your **faith** has saved you; go in peace.”

Luke 7:47

⁴⁷“For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, **for** she loved much; but **he who is forgiven little, loves little.**”

proof

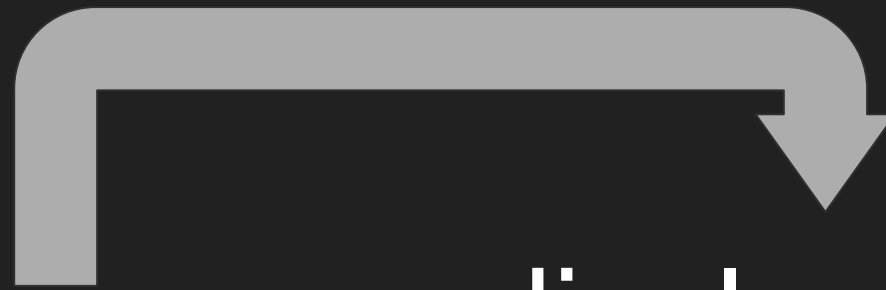


⁵⁰And He said to the woman,
“Your **faith** has saved you; go in peace.”

tangible



results in



forgiveness

display of love

Do not try to **win**
God's forgiveness.

The “tell” of being
forgiven is apparent.



Luke 7:47

⁴⁷“For this reason I say to you,
her sins, which are many,
have been forgiven,
for she loved much;
but **he who is forgiven little, loves little.**”

Main Ideas

1. Love is the expected response to God's forgiveness of our sin.
2. How much you love God depends on how much you perceive you have been forgiven.
3. How you see your sin affects the amount of your love for God.
4. Question: Are you a big sinner or a little sinner?
5. It depends upon your ability to see yourself accurately! That's how much you will love God.

Contrasts

“sinful” woman

expresses love to Jesus

places faith in Jesus

sees self as a big sinner

attitude of worship

costly acts of love

(self-righteous) Pharisee

lack of love toward Jesus

doubts who Jesus is

sees self as a small sinner

attitude of skepticism

not even common courtesies

Jesus uses a
parable of two debtors
to talk about
two different kinds of sinners.

The word “sin”
is interchangeable with
the word “debt”.

Matthew 6:12

And forgive us

our debts,

ὀφειλήματα

as we also have forgiven

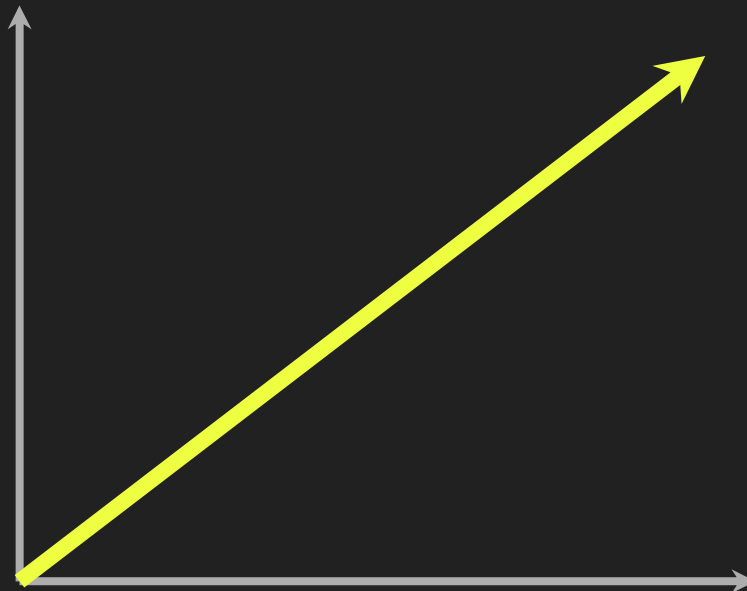
our debtors.

ὀφειλέταις

Strong's 3783. **ὀφείλημα** ōphēilēma, of-i'-lay-mah; from (the alt. of) 3784; something owed, i.e. (fig.) a due; mor. a fault:— debt.

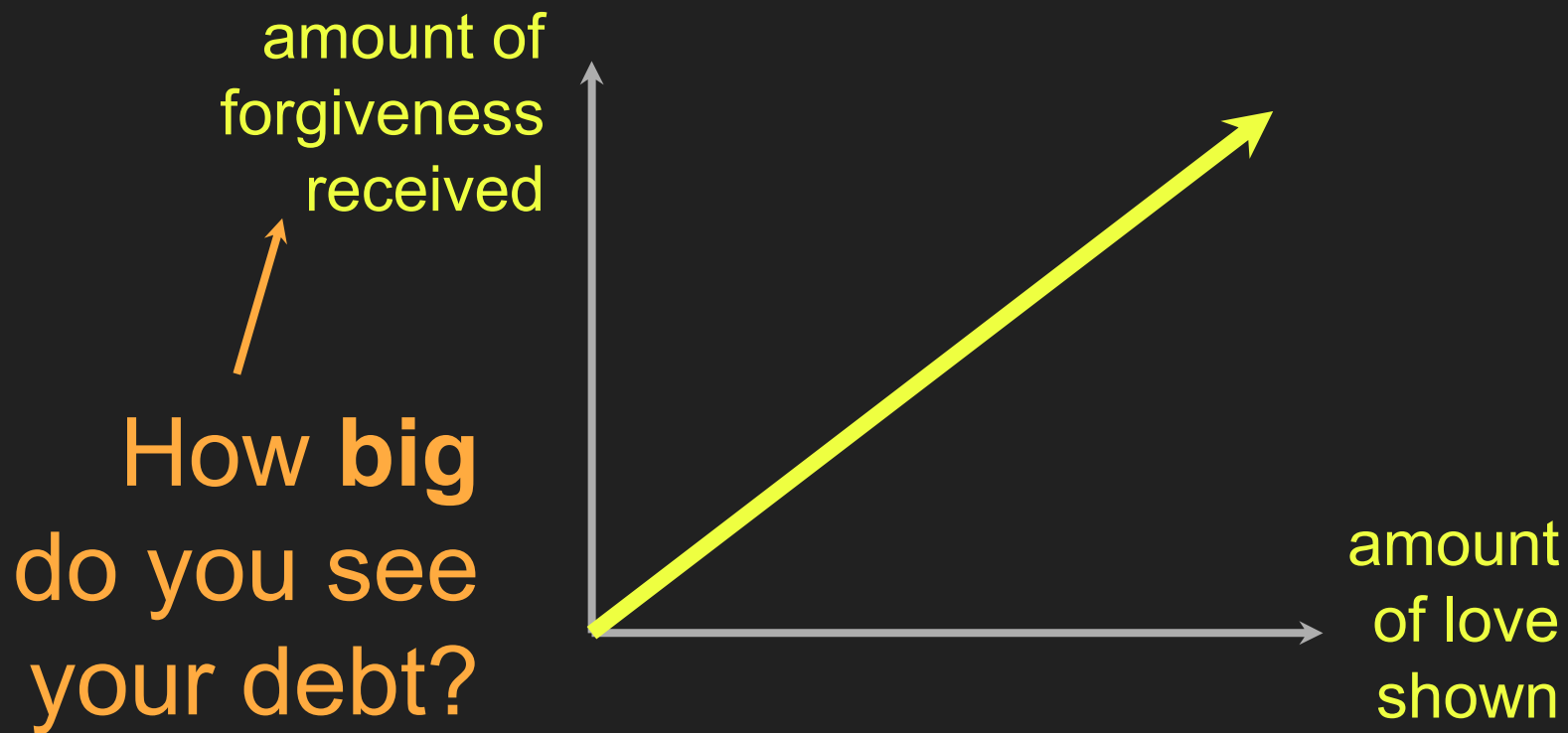
How much do we love God?

amount of
forgiveness
received

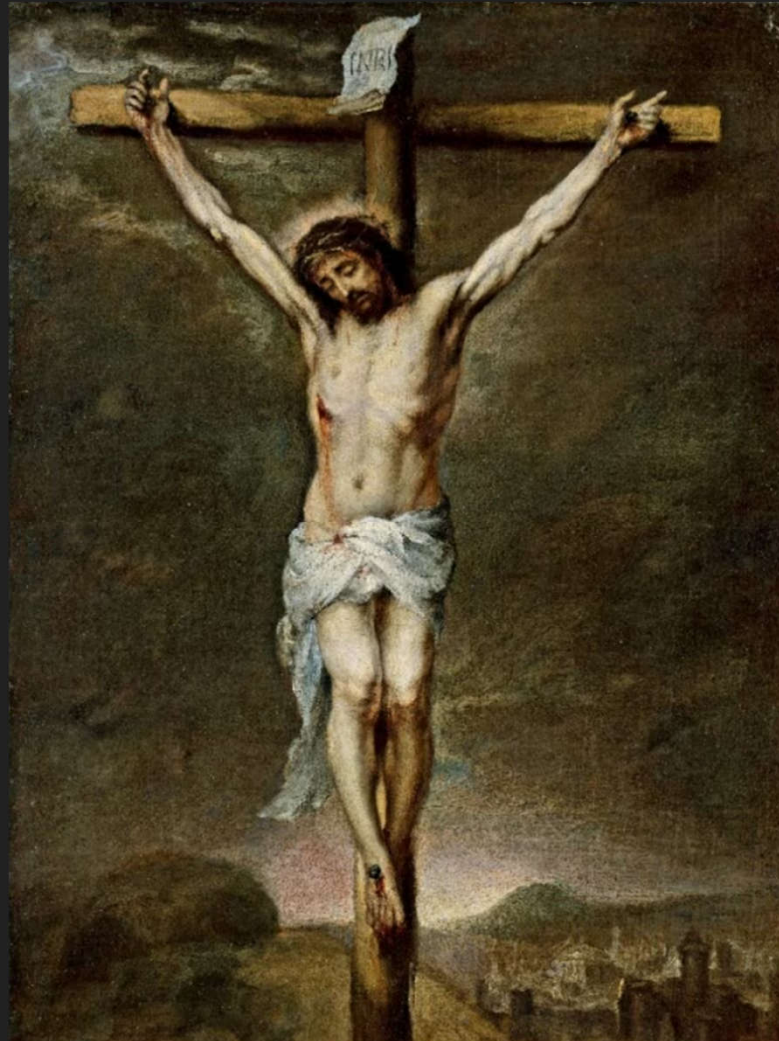


amount
of love
shown

How much do we love God?











Two Kinds of People

1. Big Debtors



2. Small Debtors



What kind of sins
does Jesus have to
forgive in me?

The one thing which shuts
a man off from God:

Self sufficiency

“The better a man is,
the more he feels his sin.”

- *Walt Henrichsen*

“Biggest” sinners

Apostle Paul: “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save **sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.**” *1 Timothy 1:15*

“Biggest” sinners

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Francis of Assisi: “There is **nowhere a more wretched and a more miserable sinner than I.**”

The greatest of sins
is to be conscious
of no sin.



How do you know that
God loves you?

How do you know that God loves you?

“For God so **loved** the world, that **He gave His only begotten Son**, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” *John 3:16*

How do you know that God loves you?

“But **God demonstrates His own love toward us**, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” *Romans 5:8*

How does God know that
you love Him?

How does God know that
you love Him?

Our response!

(Slobbering not forbidden.)

How does God know that
you love Him?

Our response!

An act of **free will.**

How does God know that
you love Him?

“If you love Me,
you will **keep My commandments.**”

John 14:15

How does God know that you love Him?

“He who has My commandments and **keeps them** is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”

John 14:21

How much do you love
God?

How much do you love
God?

Loving God is an **act of the will.**

How much do you love
God?

Loving God is an **act of the will**.

God's first move is intended to
create a **response**.



Our response

1. Costly acts of love
2. Costly acts of acts of obedience

(the end)





Luke 7 context (entire chapter)



v. 1-10	v. 11-17	v. 18-29	v. 30-35	v. 36-50
Centurion's slave healed without being there	Widow's son raised from the dead	John the Baptist asks "Are you the one?"	Pharisees and lawyers reject God's purpose	Parable of the Two Debtors

How does God know that
you love Him?

“reciprocity”

“We love, because He first loved us.”

1 John 4:19



Luke 22:19–20

¹⁹And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

²⁰And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

1 Corinthians 10:14–21

¹⁴Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

¹⁵I speak as to wise men; you judge what I say.

¹⁶Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?

¹⁷Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.

¹⁸Look at the nation Israel; are not those who eat the sacrifices sharers in the altar?

1 Corinthians 10:14–21

¹⁹What do I mean then? That a thing sacrificed to idols is anything, or that an idol is anything?

²⁰No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become sharers in demons.

²¹You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.