

2. Skyld og tilgivelse

Vi mennesker er ikke så gode til at tilgive. Verden vrimler med bitterhed, sårede følelser, aggressivitet og had. Og det gør livet gråt og surt for mange.

Vi er bedre til at finde fejl og skyld. Hos andre vel at mærke. Især det, der begås mod os. Vi kan have en udviklet retfærdighedssans, men alligevel sætte det blinde øje for vore egne fejl. Kan og skal vi altid tilgive, f.eks. hvis der er tale om forbrydelser mod menneskeheden? Kan vi ikke legitimere ondskab og grusomhed ved at afkræve andre en tilgivelse? Hvis der nu findes en retfærdig Gud, hvad mener han så om det med skyld og tilgivelse?

Jesus blev ofte involveret i konflikter, som i en eller anden forstand handlede om skyld og tilgivelse. Læs tre tekster, som er vidt forskellige, men alle forholder sig til det tema.

2.1 Jesus i dårligt selskab – Lukas-evangeliet 7,36-50

Farisæerne tilhørte en religiøs retning i Israel. De ville reformere jødedommen ved at kalde til en ny lydighed mod Moseloven. Gennem det håbede de, at Gud snart ville gribe ind og sende Messias, så at Israel kunne genrejses, åndeligt og politisk.

De havde svært ved at finde ud af, om Johannes Døberen og Jesus var på deres side eller ej. De havde mange spørgsmål - og en del kritik tilovers for Jesu liv og budskab. Se f.eks. Luk.5,30f. I dag er 'farisæer' blevet et skældsord, og det kan gøre, at vi umiddelbart har mere sympati for kvinden i beretningen end for Simon.

Men prøv at læse beretningen fordomsfrit og se Simon som et ærligt og meget fromt menneske, som gerne ville finde ud af, hvem Jesus egentlig er.

Så gerne at han ulejlig sig til at invitere Jesus på besøg.

Spørgsmål

- Eller hvad tror I, er Simons motiver til at invitere Jesus? Der dukker en ikke-indbudt gæst op. Hvordan mon kvinden følte det at møde op hos Simon? Hvordan har de to set på hinanden?
- Prøv at forestille jer stemningen, da kvinden dukker op. Og folks reaktion, da hun græder, tørrer Jesu fødder og hælder den kostbare salve over dem. Hvad havde de forventet af Jesus?
- Jesus reagerer ved at fortælle en lignelse. Lignelsen er en tolkning af Simons og kvindens forhold til Jesus. Hvad er dens pointe?
- Jesus siger noget uhørt til kvinden: Dine synder tilgives dig. Hvad mener han med det? Hvordan kan Jesus tilgive kvinden noget, hun ikke har gjort forkert over for ham, men over for andre? Hvad mener Jesus med ordene: Din tro har frelst dig?
- Hvem er denne Jesus, som tilgiver synder? Overvej, hvad de selv svarede dengang. Og hvad skal vi svare i dag?

En af farisæerne indbød Jesus til at spise hos sig, og han gik in di farisæerens hus og tog plads ved bordet. Nu var der en kvinde, som levede i synd i den by. Da hun fik at vide, at han sad til bords i farisæerens hus, gik hun derhen med en alabastkrukke fuld af olie, stillede sig grædende bag ham ved hans fødder og begyndte at væde hans fødder med sine tårer og tørrede dem med sit hår, og hun kyssede hans fødder og salvede dem med olien. Da farisæeren, som havde indbudt ham, så det, tænkte han ved sig selv: "Hvis den mand var profet, ville han vide, hvad det er for en slags kvinde, der rører ved ham, at det er én, der lever i synd." Jesus sagde til ham: "Simon, jeg har noget at sige dig." Han svarede: "Sig det, Mester!" "En pengeudlåner havde to skyldnere. Den ene skyldte fem hundred denarer, den anden halvtreds. Da de ikke havde noget at betale med, eftergav han dem begge deres gæld. Hvem af dem vil så elske ham mest?" Simon svarede: "Den, han eftergav mest, vil jeg tro." Jesus sagde: "Det har du ret i." Og vendt mod kvinden sagde han til Simon: "Ser du denne kvinde? Jeg kom ind i dit hus; du gav mig ikke vand til mine fødder; men hun har vædet mine fødder med sine tårer og tørret dem med sit hår. Du gav mig ikke noget kys; men hun er blevet ved med at kysse mine fødder, siden jeg kom herind. Du salvede ikke mit hoved med salve, men hun har salvet mine fødder med olie. Derfor sig jeg dig: Hendes mange synder er tilgivet, siden hun har elsket meget. Den, der kun får lidt tilgivet, elsker kun lidt." De andre ved bordet begyndte at tænke ved sig selv: "Hvem er han, som endog tilgiver synder?" Men han sagde til kvinden: "Din tro har frelst dig. Gå bort med fred!"

2. Guilt and Forgiveness

We human beings are not so good to forgive. The world is teemed with bitterness, hurt feelings, aggression and hatred. And for many people it makes life gray and miserable.

We are better at finding faults and blame. Mind you, with others. Especially those faults committed against us. We can have a developed sense of justice, but still put a blind eye to our own mistakes. Can we and should we always forgive, for example in the case of crimes against humanity? Can we not legitimize evil and cruelty by charging others a pardon? If there really *is* a righteous God, what does he then think about guilt and forgiveness?

Jesus was often involved in conflicts, which more or less dealt with guilt and forgiveness. Read three texts that are widely different, but all relate to the theme.

2.1 Jesus in bad company – Luke 7:36-50

The Pharisees belonged to a religious movement in Israel. They wanted to reform Judaism by calling for a new obedience to the law of Moses. Through this they hoped that God would soon intervene and send the Messiah, so that Israel could be restored, spiritually and politically.

They had difficulty finding out whether John the Baptist and Jesus were on their side or not. They had many questions – and criticized Jesus in some way for his life and message. See, for example, Luke 5:30f. Today 'Pharisee' has become a term of abuse, and this may cause that we from the outset have more sympathy for the woman in the story than for Simon. But try to read the report open-minded, and see Simon as an honest and very pious man who wanted to find out who Jesus really is.

So much that he takes the trouble to invite Jesus.

Questions

- Or what do you think about Simon's motives to invite Jesus? A not-invited guest shows up. I wonder, how did the woman feel while entering Simon's house? How did the two look at each other?
- Try to image the atmosphere when the woman shows up. And people's reaction when she cries, wipes the feet of Jesus and pours the precious ointment upon them. What do you think they expected from Jesus?
- Jesus responds by telling a parable. The parable is an interpretation of Simon and the woman's relationship with Jesus. What is its point?
- Jesus says something unheard to the woman: "Your sins are forgiven you." What does he mean by that? How can Jesus forgive the woman something she has not done wrong to him but to others? What does Jesus mean by the word: "Your faith has saved you?"
- Who is this Jesus who forgives sins? Consider how they responded at the time of Jesus. And how should we respond today?

Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured 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 who is touching him and what kind of woman she is – that she is a sinner." Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. "Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven – for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."