



STRATEGIC THEME #1: IRRESISTIBLE ENVIRONMENT

A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE WANT TO COME ... AND RETURN

Acceptance

Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” Luke 7:48

Often, what prevents people from going to a church service is the potential to feel judged or condemned. It makes sense; why go somewhere to hear a message and leave feeling worse about yourself? However, this perspective contrasts with Luke 7 where a woman met with Jesus and experienced uncommon freedom and acceptance.

She was notorious for living a sinful life, but heard that Jesus was at a religious leader’s house and knew that she must meet with Him. Jesus was irresistible to her for the same reason that He is to many who come from places of pain. He never rejects us; He always forgives and He welcomes us into His family. She experienced this love firsthand. She didn’t care what the other people in the room thought. She needed a fresh start and a new identity and the most important person in the universe gave it to her as He does with all who believe in Him (John 6:37, 2 Corinthians 5:17). That is true freedom, when you know that you are loved by God who created you (John 16:27, John 1:3).

It’s a real journey, however; those with old ways of thinking take time to accept that God would take all our sin and have it paid for in full by His only begotten Son (1 John 2:2,12).

Thankfully, He gave us the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth (John 16:13). He makes scripture come alive so that we may see how it speaks directly to us. By His power, we can share the love of Jesus Christ with other people in our lives and beyond.

FAITH IN ACTION: Heavenly Father, please show me how much You love me in Jesus Christ. Help me to share Your love with the people You bring into my life.

There is always more room at God’s table.