

Transform Notes 07.24.08

Reflection:

On the spectrum of seeing God as harsh taskmaster/mean principal at one end, and kind, loving father at the other – where would you place your view of God? How has that changed or developed over time? Was it always this way?

Study/Discussion:

Glyn spoke about different categories of attitude that we might place ourselves in. Can you identify yourself in any of these? Explain why.

- To the **hypocritical and insincere**, God can be cold and aloof – doesn't want much to do with that
- To the **penitent** – those who are sorry about their sin – he is merciful – if we want to be welcomed like the prodigal son, then we need to have the attitude of the prodigal: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you...
- To the **self-condemned** – generous and kind
- To the **frightened** he is friendly
- To the **ignorant** he is considerate
- To the **weak** he is gentle

Read Luke 7:36-50

Discuss the following questions as a group:

- what was the attitude of Simon toward Jesus? How was this attitude demonstrated?
- what was the attitude of Jesus to Simon? How are we to understand his comments?
- what was the attitude of Simon toward the “sinful woman?”
- what was the attitude of the sinful woman toward Jesus? How does she demonstrate that?
- what was the attitude of Jesus to the sinful woman? How can you tell?

What lessons are contained in this passage for us? What difference will it make to the attitude with which you approach Jesus this week?

What does Hebrews 4:15,16 say about how we can approach God? What might that look like in your life?