

## Jumbo-Jet Forgiveness: Defies Gravity April 14-15 2007 by Ken Wilson

Forgiveness defies the gravity of our sense of fairness, the pain we suffer from the wrongs of other, our own guilt, shame and pride, the weight of history.

Forgiveness is soul medicine. What is the soul?

- + conflicting notions
- + soul lives on after death but begins with a body
- + Gen. 2:7 God breathes and "the man became a living being"
- + Being, Heb. nepes, lit "that which breathes"; soul, life, self, person
- + We don't have a soul in a body, we are body, we are soul.
- + connection creates soul
- + silos vs. network
- + because network suffers so much damage, repair is needed

How do we get off the ground in the forgiveness business? Make like 747,  
A Luke 7: 47

- + set context: woman intruding on all-male dinner party
- + "Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." (Lk. 7:47)
- + how not by the book forgiveness is
  - a woman crashing an all male party: not by the book
  - a single man letting a woman get close: not by the book
  - one tight with God letting a loose woman close: not by the book
  - comparing God to a moneylender: not by the book
  - receiving forgiveness without asking for it: not by the book

Apparently, forgiveness as Jesus practiced it wasn't by the book.  
It was messy, out of order, offensive....and stunningly beautiful.

How we misread the meaning of the Pharisees in gospels: they are not the bad guys; they represent decent, fair, law-abiding us.

Forgiveness violates common sense, moral sense, sense of fairness and propriety.

There are degrees of difficulty when it comes to forgiveness.  
Times when it's a simple matter of admitting wrong, asking pardon, extending pardon. (In marriage, an essential survival skill.)

But there are times when it's virtually impossible to forgive. At such times we must understand forgiveness is a mystery we are invited to participate in, to repair the network on which our own well being depends.

You know you're participating in the mystery of forgiveness when:

1. Your eyes are on Jesus, not on yourself...not even your sins.
2. Your eyes are on Jesus, not on the people accusing you
3. Your eyes are on Jesus, not on those who have injured you.
4. The beauty you behold in him draws devotion out of you that you didn't know you had.

True religion isn't first of all, devotion to righteousness, or holiness or moral decency. It's devotion to Jesus, such as this woman was experiencing. Everything else flows from that. Which is why Jesus, in the presence of the so called devout, put such a spotlight on this sinful woman's devotion.