

Grace Notes: growing our faith through music by Coni Ferland

You Are More Jason Ingram/Mike Donehey

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If you'd like to hear the song: <https://youtu.be/IwtcwQwgdsA>

There's a girl in the corner with tear stains on her eyes,
from the places she's wandered and the shame she can't hide.
She says, "How did I get here? I'm not who I once was.
And I'm crippled by the fear that I've fallen too far to love."

But don't you know who you are, what's been done for you?

Refrain:

You are more than the choices that you've made.
You are more than the sum of your past mistakes.
You are more than the problems you create; you've been remade.

Well she tries to believe it, that she's been given new life,
but she can't shake the feeling that it's not true tonight.
She knows all the answers, she's rehearsed all the lines;
and she'll try to do better, but then she's too weak to try.

But don't you know who you are?

Refrain x 2

'Cause this is not about what you've done, but what's been done for you.
This is not about where you've been, where your brokenness leads you to.
This is not about what you feel, but what He felt to forgive you.
And what He felt to make you feel loved.

Refrain x 2

You've been remade. You've been remade. You've been remade. You've been remade.

There's a girl in the corner with tear stains on her eyes,
from the places she's wandered and the shame she can't hide.
She says, "How did I get here? I'm not who I once was.
And I'm crippled by the fear that I've fallen too far to love."

Romans 8:29-34 *"For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him - and all along he knew who would - should become like his Son, so that his Son would be the First, with many brothers. And having chosen us, he called us to come to him; and when we came, he declared us 'not guilty,' filled us with Christ's goodness, gave us right standing with himself, and promised us his glory. What can we ever say to such wonderful things as these? If God is on our*

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side, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son for us but gave him up for us all, won't he also surely give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? Will God? No! He is the one who has forgiven us and given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? Will Christ? No! For he is the one who died for us and came back to life again for us and is sitting at the place of highest honor next to God, pleading for us there in heaven."

The Living Bible¹

Can you see yourself in the "girl in the corner"? In what ways?

Can you imagine Christ sitting beside God pleading for you? What would that feel like?

What would Christ be saying that would relieve the fear that you've "fallen too far to love?"

But don't you know who you are, what's been done for you?

Is it easy for you to forget, or to overlook, who you are in Christ Jesus? Why do you think that is?

You are more than the choices that you've made.

You are more than the sum of your past mistakes.

You are more than the problems you create; you've been remade.

Romans 5:8-10 "But God has shown us how much he loves us - it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us! By his blood we are now put right with God; how much more, then, will we be saved by him from God's anger! We were God's enemies, but he made us his friends through the death of his Son. Now that we are God's friends, how much more will we be saved by Christ's life!"

Good News Translation²

How does it feel when you consider what God has done for us – remade us from sinners into "God's friends" through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ?

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Do you struggle with overcoming your past? With releasing your mistakes, your poor choices? How can letting these things go help connect you with your new life in Christ? If you struggle with this, bring your hesitation, your concern, your fear to God; ask for help in releasing your perceptions and in accepting God's view of you.

Well she tries to believe it, that she's been given new life,
but she can't shake the feeling that it's not true tonight.
She knows all the answers, she's rehearsed all the lines;
and she'll try to do better, but then she's too weak to try.

Luke 7:36-48 *“One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat. When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting 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 what kind of woman is touching him. She’s a sinner!’ Then Jesus answered his thoughts. ‘Simon,’ he said to the Pharisee, ‘I have something to say to you.’ ‘Go ahead, Teacher,’ Simon replied. Then Jesus told him this story: ‘A man loaned money to two people - 500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?’ Simon answered, ‘I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt.’ ‘That’s right,’ Jesus said. Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, ‘Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn’t offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You didn’t greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume. I tell you, her sins - and they are many - have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.’ Then Jesus said to the woman, ‘Your sins are forgiven.’”*
New Living Translation³

Have you considered how God can use your brokenness to help others see their brokenness? To help others see the way to heal their brokenness? How does that feel to you? When Jesus talks about “little” being forgiven, could it be that the Pharisee considers himself sinless – or at least less sinful – compared to the woman? How might that attitude effect how the Pharisee sees and treats the woman? How would that effect the woman and

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how she sees herself? How do the attitudes and actions of those around you effect how you see yourself?

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This is not about what you feel, but what He felt to forgive you.
And what He felt to make you feel loved.

Romans 8:1-3 *"So there is now no condemnation awaiting those who belong to Christ Jesus. For the power of the life-giving Spirit - and this power is mine through Christ Jesus - has freed me from the vicious circle of sin and death. We aren't saved from sin's grasp by knowing the commandments of God because we can't and don't keep them, but God put into effect a different plan to save us. He sent his own Son in a human body like ours - except that ours are sinful - and destroyed sin's control over us by giving himself as a sacrifice for our sins."* The Living Bible¹

Paul reminds us because of Christ's love and sacrifice we are saved from our past. How might looking at yourself through the love of Christ Jesus change the way you see yourself?

"For I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels won't, and all the powers of hell itself cannot keep God's love away. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, or where we are - high above the sky, or in the deepest ocean - nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God demonstrated by our Lord Jesus Christ when he died for us."

Romans 8:38-39 The Living Bible¹

You've been remade!

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