Day 25

> *And Jerusalem has sinned greatly and so has become unclean. All who honored her despise her, for they have seen her nakedness; she herself groans and turns away. Her filthiness clung to her skirts; she did not consider her future. Her fall was astounding; there was none to comfort her. "Look, O LORD, on my affliction, for the enemy has triumphed." The enemy laid hands on all her treasures; she saw pagan nations enter her sanctuary — those you had forbidden to enter your assembly. Lam. 1:8-10*

What would life be like without FORGIVENESS – both from God and people? Many people, even after they have become Christians, have failed to consider their future and "sinned greatly". The enemy, sin, seems to utterly triumph, steal all the treasures, and invade the temple. If the sins were sexual, sin literally invades the temple of the body. People fall, and the fall is "astounding". Were it not for Jesus our filthiness would indeed "cling to our skirts" and our shame, once exposed, would abide. **BUT WE ARE NOT WITHOUT JESUS!** If the description above fits you then meditate, until you understand and <u>really</u> believe, on 1Jn 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." We may need to confess not only to God but also to people we have sinned against, and if possible make up for any damage we have caused. We must also understand that repentance isn't just "saying you're sorry", but also no longer sinning as we had. Just as importantly, if you have been sinned against, obey the commandment to forgive. Treat a forgiven sinner no differently than one who has never sinned, and in this way encourage their transformation into the likeness of Jesus – the only one who never sinned. Make this a lifestyle: (1) make every effort to avoid sin, but when you do, confess, repent and receive forgiveness into your heart. (2) When you are sinned against – and you can be sure this WILL happen – forgive from the heart. You have been forgiven MUCH – LOVE MUCH!