

SPIRITUAL TASK —GO AND SIN NO MORE (John 8)

by the Rev. David Roth at the New Church of Boulder Valley

Story The prodigal son wasted all his inheritance on riotous living. He came to his sense and realized his errors, and returned to his father saying, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.” There was a woman caught in adultery. The Lord did not condemn her, but told her to “Go and sin no more.”

Meaning When we do something wrong, something against the Lord’s teachings, it is right to acknowledge our guilt and return to the Lord and ask forgiveness. The Lord always forgives us, no matter what. And, He asks us to “Go and sin no more”—to stop the hurtful behavior. Guilt is to be a motivator for change, not a shackle to immobilize us.

Task If you feel you have a debt of guilt to pay, know that you are already forgiven. If you want to do something to assuage feelings of guilt, then forgive someone this week that you haven’t forgiven for something. As we say in the Lord’s prayer: “Forgive us our debts as we also forgive our debtors.” The more we can truly forgive others, the more we will feel the Lord’s forgiveness.

