Forgiveness

by HermioneWeasley1972

He has nowhere else to turn. Can she help him find his way?

One Shot

Chapter 1 of 1

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Many years had passed since the final battle between Harry Potter and Voldemort. Most of the Death Eaters were dead or otherwise reformed. Hermione Weasley had a new job – she was a counselor for a recently created church for the wizard community. After the horror of Voldemort and with everyone trying to change their ways, it had been decided that people needed something that they could believe in, something that was good. The Gospel was taught there and forgiveness. But for the people who had been under Voldemort's pale, icy thumb for a long time, forgiveness and redemption was a difficult thing to fathom.

Hermione was sitting in her office one day, and someone new knocked upon her door, someone that she had never expected to see there – Lucius Malfoy. The years had been hard on him. His face was lined, and he no longer walked with the proud Pureblood strut that he'd had in his younger years. Word had come that his son Draco had been killed by an unknown disease and Narcissa no longer wanted anything to do with him. She had never seen him looking in so much despair nor so downtrodden.

"Come in, Mr. Malfoy. Please, sit down," she said gently. "Can I offer you something to drink? Tea, perhaps?"

"Tea would be nice," Lucius said without showing any of the disdain he'd given her years ago when they first met in Flourish and Blotts.

When each of them had a cup of tea in front of them, Hermione said, "So, how may I help you today?"

He took a sip of tea and sighed deeply. "I don't know if anyone can help me." His eyes were bright and he looked as if he was on the brink of tears. "I heard about this church, that it teaches forgiveness. Correct?"

Hermione nodded. "That is correct, Mr. Malfoy."

"I have done so much wrong, Mrs. Weasley. People have died at my wand. I have tortured others to the point of madness. How can anyone forgive me for what I have done?"

Hermione stood up with her tea in her hands and came around the desk, pulling up her chair next to Lucius'. "Well, there is someone who wants to forgive you. But first you have to repent of what you have done. You have to know that what you did was wrong and that you want to become a new person."

"I do want that. I have lost everything. My son is gone, my wife has left, and I really have nothing left to live for."

Hermione reached out and gently laid one of her hands on Lucius' arm. "Let me tell you about forgiveness and salvation. Over two millennia ago there was a man who was born, and when he grew up he did many things to many people."

"Like Voldemort?" Lucius asked.

"Well, no. This man was kind. He healed people, he fed them, and he helped them. But when he was 33 years old, the people who he helped decided that they didn't want

him around anymore. This man's name was Jesus. He was crucified and hung on a cross. But even as they stood around and mocked him and even though they did all those things to him, he still asked his father to forgive them. When he was on that cross, God put all of the sins of the world on him and turned away from his son."

"He turned away from him?" Lucius asked incredulously.

"Yes, because God hates sin. He can't look upon it."

"Then why would he want anything to do with me?" Lucius asked quietly.

"Well, it doesn't stop there. Anyone who repented of his sins, of the wrong things that he had done, Jesus forgave him and assured that he would have a place to go after he died." Hermione took out a book with a black leather cover and opened it up. "It says here in John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." She looked at Lucius. "But here is the amazing thing. Jesus died but he didn't stay dead. After three days, he rose again. That is the reason why Christians have hope. We know that when we die we have a place that we are going to go. We will go to Heaven."

Lucius looked at her for a few minutes, and finally a tear traced its way down his cheek. "I want to believe, Mrs. Weasley. I want to know this Jesus. I want to repent from what I have done wrong. Tell me what I need to do."

Hermione could hardly believe it, but she couldn't help smiling. "Mr. Malfoy, this is what you need to do. You need to pray a prayer that goes something like this:

Dear God,

I know that I am a sinner. I am sorry for what I have done and I want to change. I know that you died for my sins and I thank you for that. Please come into my heart and make me a new person so that one day I can live with you in Heaven.

In Jesus' name

Amen

Lucius softly repeated the words that Hermione had spoken with his head bowed and then lifted his head to look at her. "I feel different. I feel like a new man."

"You **are** a new man," she replied with a smile. "Welcome to the family of God. Now, anytime you need to talk to God, he is there and ready to listen. Tell him your pain and your sorrows. That is what he is there for. But don't forget to thank him for what he is doing in your life." Hermione stood up from her chair and went back behind her desk, coming back out with a book that looked similar to her own. "It will also help to read this. This is God's letter to you, and it will guide you when you don't know what to do." She handed him a copy of the Bible.

"Thank you, Mrs. Weasley," Lucius said, getting to his feet, placing his cup on her desk and holding out his hand for her to shake. "I feel like you have given me a new lease on life."

"God did that," Hermione said with a smile. "I just helped to show you the way."

Lucius left her office standing a bit straighter with a smile on his face that matched hers. She knew that there was a party happening in Heaven.

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Prompt from karelia: Hermione explains the principle of Christianity to Lucius Malfoy