

## A Sinner Comes to Christ

Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1993

### Luke 7:36-50

*And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, and stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.*

I want to speak to you today on this subject: "A Sinner Comes to Christ." I would like for you to remember that title and listen to the message and pass it on to someone else. I think it is a very important message and very instructive. I'm taking my text from Luke Chapter 7. If you have a Bible handy, I think it would be a blessing to you to follow along as I read the scriptures. In Luke Chapter 7: 36 through 50 is where I will be starting.

Most of you are familiar with this story. It is the story of the sinful woman who came to Christ as He sat at meat in the Pharisee's home. Do you remember? She came in and stood at His feet, and then she stooped down and washed His feet with her tears and dried them with the hair of her head. She kissed His feet and anointed them with precious ointment. This is the story of the woman who came to Christ.

I want to look again at this story and see what is taught here. I love to read the experience of people whom I know came to Christ. Don't you? I love to hear of people, on the authority of God's Word, who came to Christ and were forgiven of their sins. Our Lord said to this woman, "*Thy sins be forgiven thee.*" That is what He said to her. She came to Christ and she received forgiveness. In fact, before she left, Christ said, "*Thy faith hath made the whole.*" I love to read the experiences of people, whom I know, which came to Christ and found forgiveness.

We don't seek an experience; that is not what we are seeking. We are seeking Christ our Lord. We don't seek to have someone else's experience. I'm not asking you to duplicate someone else's experience; it is impossible because the Lord is not here, on the earth, in human flesh. You can't duplicate this experience, and you wouldn't want to if you could. The Spirit of God under different circumstances brings men and women to Christ.

We see here, the purposes of the Lord in relating an experience like this woman's experience. The purpose is to magnify His grace. That is what it does. When we read what happened to this woman by God's grace, it magnifies His mercy; it magnifies His grace and exalts His goodness to sinners.

What is also revealed is the kind of people to whom our Lord is gracious. He came to save sinners. He came to seek and to save them that are lost. "*He delights to show mercy*" to the miserable and to the needy. Not only that, He's gracious to call such to Himself.

So, that is what you see in an experience like this. You see the grace of God magnified. You see the people to whom His grace is given, and then you see the command for all who need Him to come to Him.

We need to be reminded of this over and over again. Even you, who know Christ, need to be constantly reminded of what we are by nature. We are sinners! That is what we are by birth, by nature and by practice; we are sinners. We need to be reminded of that and be reminded of who He is. "*He is a just God and a Saviour.*" He is the only Saviour. We need to be reminded how He saves sinners through His blood and through His righteousness. Christ said, "*I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh to the Father but by me. There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, Christ the Lord.*"

Listen to me now as I talk about a sinner who came to Christ. I'm talking about a sinner like you and me. I'm talking about coming to Christ and finding forgiveness and mercy and being made whole.

First, you see here, look at verse 36: *“And one of the Pharisees desired Him, (Christ the Lord), that He would come to his home and eat with him.”* The Lord Jesus went into the Pharisee's house and sat down to eat. The first thing that we have in this story is an invitation. This Pharisee invited the Lord Jesus Christ to come to his home and have a meal. We have an invitation. Why did this religious Pharisee invite the Lord Jesus to eat with him? This man was prominent in religious circles. He was a powerful ruler in the Synagogue and in the Jewish religion; He was a Pharisee. Why did he invite the Lord Jesus to come into his home and eat with him?

He didn't believe on Him; we know that. He didn't respect Him; no, not at all. He didn't wish to honor him because he didn't even extend to Him the common courtesy of that day. Do you remember, the Lord rebuked him later and said, *“When I came into your home, you didn't give me any water to wash my feet? You didn't give me a kiss of greeting; and you didn't give me any oil to anoint my head.”* None of the common courtesies were extended to the Lord Jesus Christ when He came to this Pharisee's home.

Why did he invite him? He didn't believe on Him, respect Him or wish to honor Him. I tell you, he had heard what the crowd was saying about Jesus Christ. Back in Luke 7:16, the people were saying that they had heard Christ, heard Him preach, and saw Him raise the widow's son from the dead. This is what the people were saying, *“A great prophet has risen up among us, and the Lord has visited His people by sending His prophet.”*

This Pharisee did not believe that. He believed that Jesus Christ was an imposter. So, the reason for inviting Christ to his home was to expose Him. He believed that Jesus of Nazareth was a fraud. Many other people believed the same thing, they said; *“He's the carpenter, can any good thing come out of Nazareth? He's a winebibber, He's a glutinous man; He's a friend of sinners”* and all of these things. This Pharisee felt the same way and he believed that Jesus of Nazareth was a fraud and he wanted to expose Him. He did not believe that He was a prophet. You'll see that in a few moments because He said this, *“If this man were a prophet, He would not let this woman touch Him.”* So, he didn't believe on Christ. As I said before, he invited Him to dinner.

The second thing we have in this scripture, in verse 36, *“One of the Pharisees desired Him that he would eat with him.”* He came and did eat with Him. We have an interruption in verse 37, *“Behold while they sat at meat, a woman of the city, who was a great sinner, when she heard that Jesus Christ sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, she*

*brought an alabaster box of ointment and came in and stood at His feet and began to wash His feet with tears and did wipe them with the hair of her head and kissed His feet and anointed them with ointment.”*

Now, in the early part of Luke, Chapter 7, our Lord was preaching and multitudes heard Him. He was preaching on the streets and this woman was in that congregation; she was in that crowd, the multitude that heard the Lord Jesus preach. She heard His wonderful Words of life. She heard the gospel that He proclaimed. She heard Him and she went to her house and got this valuable alabaster box of precious ointment. This was a valuable box of ointment. She intended, some how, to anoint Him. She was so moved by His message, moved by His presence, and moved in her heart by the grace of this man, *“The grace that flowed from His lips,”* the scripture says in Psalm 45.

She went home and got this ointment and she came back and He wasn't there. She heard that He was at the Pharisee's house. She was looking for and seeking Christ. She heard that He was at the Pharisee's house having dinner.

Let me describe one of these houses and dinners back in this day. It wasn't just one person eating with another. This was an important man, a rich man, a leader, and a ruler of the Synagogue. When he had a dinner, especially when he invited guests (there were many guests). The Pharisee and his friends, sat up before the whole group, on the uppermost exalted seat. All the guests that had come to eat were out on the floor. There was a table spread and the people sat around the table and leaned around the table. They would even lie, prone and lie on cushions. They didn't sit in chairs around a table like we do. That is how this woman could come and stand at His feet, kneel down and anoint His feet. If He had put His feet under a chair, she couldn't have done that. He was prone, stretched out, leaning on cushions.

Also, in that room were other people sitting around the walls, listening to the exchange of ideas, discussions, debates and questions. All of these people would sit around the walls and listen to what was said at this dinner. They had begun the dinner and the Lord was lying there upon the cushions, and leaning upon the cushions with the other guests, eating, and suddenly there was an interruption. The door opened and every eye turned that way and in walked this woman. They knew her. She was a prominent, sinful, well-known woman of that town, a great sinner according to this Pharisee. This woman that was a sinner, was probably a Prostitute or something of that nature. She came in and a hush fell over that whole crowd.

She had eyes for one person in that room. She wasn't looking at the religious Pharisee or his friends; she was looking at the Lord Jesus Christ. She had heard Him; her heart had

been moved toward His gospel and toward Him. She had the precious box of alabaster ointment, the valuable box in her arms. She knew what she was going to do with it. She was going to pour it out on Christ. She started walking toward Him and you could have heard a pin drop. What is this woman here for? What is she going to do?

She came and stood at His feet and looked down at them. Remember now, this man, when Christ came to dinner, did not give Him water to wash His feet. His feet were dusty and dirty. There He was, a guest in this man's home. *"He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows acquainted with grief. They hid as it were their faces from Him."* They had no respect for Him, they harassed Him and made fun of Him and called Him a devil. She stood there and looked down at His feet and her heart broke. Here was God's Son, her Lord, the one who came to earth with mercy to save sinners, the one that was so hated and neglected, she looked down at those tired, dirty and dusty feet and just fell down and started weeping and crying. She covered His feet with tears and then she unplatted her braided hair and dried His feet with the hairs of her head. Then, she started kissing His feet in admiration.

You know, someone said one time, "Sinners, true sinners, are always found at the feet of our Lord." Mary always sat at His feet. That is where sinners are found. The woman wept over her sins and over the neglect of the Lord Jesus. She wept over the hardness of the hearts of the people and wept over the condition of her town and wept over all their sins. She kissed His feet and took that expensive, valuable ointment, and broke it open and poured it on His feet. One scripture said that the whole place was filled with the fragrance of that ointment, that precious ointment that she poured all over His feet.

Well, that is quite an interruption isn't it? What follows next, is an insinuation. Here sat this religious imposter, a hypocrite. He sat and watched all of this just like everybody else; not a sound was made. They all watched as this woman, who was a sinner, kiss the feet of the Lord. She dried His feet with her hair and anointed His feet with ointment.

Look at verse 39, *"Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner."* Did you hear what he said? He would have known who she was and what kind of person she was.

What was he? He didn't believe that he was a sinner. He was watching this sinner kiss the feet of the Lord Jesus and this is what was going through his mind; "I wouldn't let her touch me; I'm too good; I'm too righteous; I'm too Holy; and I'm too pure for such a person to even stand in my presence, let alone kiss my feet. If He were a prophet, and if

He were a man of God, He wouldn't let her near Him." That is where he was wrong. That is why his Pharisee religion is not the gospel.

This man didn't know who Christ was. Christ knew who this woman was. Christ knew what manner of woman she was because it was folks like her that He came to save. He said, *"I've come to seek and to save the lost."*

One time, He was sitting at meat, with a bunch of folks just like her (sinners). The Pharisees were watching as He sat at meat with these sinners. They said to His disciples, *"Look at your Master, sitting and eating with those sinners."* Our Lord said to them, *"the well do not need a physician but they that are sick. I'm come, not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. You go and learn what that means. The Lord said, "I will have mercy and not sacrifice."*

Our Lord *"came to seek and to save the lost."* The scripture says this, *"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation that Jesus Christ is come into the world to save sinners."* That is His mission and that is why He came. I am so glad (aren't you glad?) that God saves sinners. *"God commended His love toward us that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

This Pharisee was insinuating that He was not a prophet, because He loved sinners and allowed sinners to come to Him and He allowed sinners to touch Him. That proves He's God's Prophet, Priest and King. He came to save sinners.

The songwriter put it this way:

Come ye sinners poor and needy,  
Weak and wounded, sick and sore.  
Jesus ready stands to save you,  
Full of pity, love and power.

Come ye weary, you heavy laden,  
Bruised and mangled by the fall.  
If you tarry, til you're better,  
You will never come at all.

Let not conscience make you linger,  
Nor a fitness fondly dream.  
All the fitness He requires,  
Is to feel your need of Him.

Well, we have an invitation. This Pharisee invited the Lord to come to his house and eat, and He came. As they sat at meat, there was an interruption. Oh, what a blessed interruption! A true sinner, a genuine sinner, a bonafide sinner, one sinner out of all of these religious people, there was one sinner who came and knelt at His feet. She was confessing her sins, weeping, repenting and drying His feet with her hair and pouring ointment on His feet.

We also had an insinuation. There was a religious man who couldn't understand it. He couldn't enter into it. He couldn't sympathize with it. He didn't feel his sin, he didn't feel his need of Christ, he didn't see why Christ came, and he didn't understand why Christ had any dealings with this woman at all.

Then, we have an inquiring. Look at verses 40-42. Our Lord knew what this man was thinking. You see, my friends, men look on the outward countenance and God looks on the heart. The Lord Jesus, as this woman washed His feet with tears, and kissed His feet. I'm sure the Lord's eyes were looking right at Simon, knowing what he was thinking, knowing exactly what he was thinking. Old Simon thought within himself, "This man is no prophet; if this man were a prophet; He would know who she is and what she is. He would not let her touch Him." He said, "*Simon, (I bet that shocked him out of his thoughts) I have something to say to you!*" He said, "*Master say on.*" "*There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?*" Simon answered and said, "*I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.*"

The hardest thing is to pin down a religionist. He knew the answer. He said, "*I suppose the one to whom He forgave the most.*" Our Lord said, "*Simon, thou hast rightly said.*" Both were debtors as we are. Both had nothing to pay, as we have nothing to pay. He forgave them both as the Lord has forgiven us. Now, the one who truly loves Him, is the one to whom He forgave the most. It was the one most conscience of his needs, the most conscience of his debt, the most conscience of his inability, and the one most conscience of the Lord's mercy to him.

Oh, He has forgiven me so many times, of so much. That's the one that loves me like this woman. Then He said, "*Simon, do you see this woman?*" Oh, he saw her, but he didn't identify with her at all. He looked at her with disgust. The Lord Jesus said, "*Do you see this woman?*" I ask you today, "Do you see this woman?" In your imagination; I believe I can, go back to that time and look at her. Do you see her attitude? She's guilty, broken, and repentant. Do you see her humility?

Here is a woman, sitting at a man's feet, kissing His feet, weeping and washing His dirty feet with her tears and then takes her hair, the glory of her womanhood, and wiping His feet clean. Take a good look at her! That is a repentant sinner. That is a genuine sinner. That is a broken, guilty sinner. That is a sinner who knows that she needs mercy and knows the only one who can give her mercy; and that mercy is found at His feet. We have to humble ourselves before the Lord and seek mercy. Simon, "do you see this woman?"

Now, Simon; "look at yourself." He said, "I came to your home, you gave me no water to wash my feet. This woman has not ceased to wash my feet with her tears." Simon, "I came into your home and you gave me no kiss of welcome. This woman is kissing my feet." Simon, "I came into your home and you did not anoint my head with oil; you gave me no respect and no honor; this woman has anointed my feet." I say this to you Simon, "*Her sins which are so many are all forgiven.*"

You don't think your sins are many; you don't think that you owe very much. You have never gotten a glimpse of your sins. You've never had any revelation of your wicked heart and your sinfulness. You are guilty of the same things that she is guilty of. She is guilty in act, you are in thought; she is guilty in a deed, and you in imagination; you are just as guilty in the sight of God, but you don't see it. Her sins are many and they are all forgiven. Your sins are still on you. They are still waiting upon you. They are waiting upon you and weighed upon you. They are waiting on you to meet them at the judgment.

The scripture says that He turned to the woman and said, "*Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.*" Oh my, that is an announcement. Oh, that God in His grace would take this message home to our hearts.

You know, before a man is saved, he has to be lost. Before a person is forgiven, he has to be a sinner. Before a person is clothed in the righteousness of Christ, he has to be stripped of his own righteousness. Before we exalt Him, we have to be humbled. We have to come down. A man is never saved until he is lost. If we miss Holy Spirit conviction, we are going to miss repentance. If we miss repentance, we are going to miss faith. If we miss faith, we are going to miss Christ.

Oh, that we might be brought to the feet of the Master and brought to kiss His feet. We need to love Him, and believe on Him. I'll tell you this, when we do, we'll take the valuables and pour them on His feet. Praise God for His mercy to us!