



COMMONWEALTH  
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## A Jesus-Centered Church

### Luke 7:36-50

<sup>36</sup> *When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.* <sup>37</sup> *A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume.* <sup>38</sup> *As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.*

<sup>39</sup> *When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."*

<sup>40</sup> *Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."*

*"Tell me, teacher," he said.*

<sup>41</sup> *"Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii,<sup>[a]</sup> and the other fifty.* <sup>42</sup> *Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"*

<sup>43</sup> *Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."*

*"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.*

<sup>44</sup> *Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair.* <sup>45</sup> *You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet.* <sup>46</sup> *You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet.* <sup>47</sup> *Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."*

<sup>48</sup> *Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."*

<sup>49</sup> *The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"*

<sup>50</sup> *Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."*

**Intro:** this scene takes place in the courtyard of Simon the Pharisee. The houses of well to do people were built around an open courtyard in the form of a hollow square. It was custom when a well to do Rabbi had a party like this that people could come in and listen to the wisdom of the teacher. When a guest entered such a house 3 things were always done:

- a. the host placed his hand on the guest's shoulder and gave a kiss of peace as a sign of respect...



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- b. also... cool water would be poured over the guests feet (open sandals, dirt roads, customary to cleanse the feet)
- c. Then when barefoot, oil & incense would have been added to the feet and the head of the individual, as a pleasant fragrance. None of this was done for Jesus and that sets the scene for what follows

**A Jesus Centered Church:**

**1. Values Each Person as Created in the Image of God (Lk 7:36-39)**

- Jesus spent time with Pharisees who were from the reputable religious community as well as people who had sinful pasts.

**2. Responds in Worship to God**

- a. Through passionate self-forgetfulness- this woman broke societal taboos in public adoration of Christ
- b. Through generous sacrificial giving- Alabaster vile- value approx. \$30,000
- Our giving should be: cheerful, sacrificial, and regular. *“In the New Testament, 10% is not the ceiling we hope for, but the floor we begin at.”*

**3. AJCC: is centered on the message of grace, not performance**

- *“the greatest sin of all is to be conscious of no sin”*

**4. AJCC: confronts external religiosity and calls for radical internal devotion**