

OPENING REMARKS: Open your Bibles to Luke 7:36-50 .....

THEME: **Bold worship is the natural response to saving grace!**

INTRODUCTION:

Today we’re looking at a passage of Scripture that makes me somewhat nervous, excited, and motivated—all at the same time! The passage highlights the thrilling and unabashed worship of Jesus by a prostitute who just got saved. It takes place inside a Pharisee’s house and it highlights the difference of how God saved one of the biggest sinners in the city, while one of the most self-righteous remained woefully unrepentant.

It reminds me of how important it is to love and serve and minister to the “less desirable” all around us...because they’re not undesirable in God’s sight and they’re the very reason God has left us here in this world! We need to love all those created in God’s image...LISTEN UP!...whether they are rioters, protestors, government officials, abortion clinic workers, drunks, drug addicts, rapists, murderers, or street prostitutes.

Johnny & Rachel Bruder - (international missionaries supported by our church) Stationed in Berlin, Germany ... <u>to Women Being Trafficked for the Sex Trade</u>
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True Example #1:

A prostitute walked into their Drop-In Center from off the street. She was a “regular” but had never done anything like this before. She walked over to the wall, grabbed a Bible, and asked Rachel and another helper to read it to her. They read two chapters from the Gospel of Matthew and the woman (prostitute) kept saying, “*I love this.*” She then abruptly stood up and walked out of the Center. (God works in mysterious ways!)

True Example #2:

Back in January of this year, the Bruder’s were getting ready to leave Germany to come back to the states. Rachel and another female missionary helper walked into a local Brothel for Evangelistic Outreach. They spoke to two of the trafficked women saying, “*I wouldn’t feel comfortable if I left the country and didn’t share the gospel with you.*” They shared the gospel with those two ladies. After praying with them, one of the workers left after saying, “*I don’t understand why you believe in this stuff.*” But the other girl asked for the address to the church so that she could attend the services.

**READ: Luke 7:36-50**

**36** Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him, and He entered the Pharisee’s house and reclined *at the table*. **37** And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner; and when she learned that He was reclining *at the table* in the Pharisee’s house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume, **38** and standing behind *Him* at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume. **39** Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner.”

**40** And Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” And he replied, “Say it, Teacher.” **41** “A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. **42** When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?” **43** Simon answered and said, “I suppose the one whom he forgave more.” And He said to him, “You have judged correctly.” **44** Turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. **45** You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet. **46** You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume. **47** For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little.” **48** Then He said to her, “Your sins have been forgiven.” **49** Those who were reclining *at the table* with Him began to say to themselves, “Who is this *man* who even forgives sins?” **50** And He said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

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**THEME: Bold worship is the natural response to saving grace!**  
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POINTS OF CONSIDERATION

- 1. Bold, authentic, and unashamed worship of Jesus Christ is the natural response to having received forgiveness of sins.**
  - QUESTION: Is your worship of Jesus cold and repetitive, or is it marked by overwhelming joy and unmatched love?
- 2. Jesus will not refuse the repentant, who in self-despair prostrate themselves before Him.**
  - You cannot worship Jesus while also being stiff-necked in heart.
- 3. Those who love Jesus most have no problem washing feet.**
  - Humility in ministry is the mark of a godly saint.
- 4. It's hard to be prideful in heart when you're worshiping with tears of gratitude.**
  - REALITY CHECK: A lack of love will result in lack of worship!
- 5. You're spiritually strong if washing Jesus' feet is more important to you than other people's opinion of you.**
  - QUESTION: Are you more concerned about your reputation or about God's will for your life? (Does your lifestyle prove your answer, one way or another?)
- 6. Worldly pleasure finds no foothold in the heart of a saint who weeps joyfully at the Savior's feet.**
  - You will become less interested in the things of this world as you focus more on your beloved Savior!
- 7. Your lowly submission will lead to the assurance of your salvation.**
  - The greatest proof of your salvation isn't necessarily a verbal profession of faith, but a consistent lifestyle of loving obedience.

**8. Your full allegiance at His feet prepares you for fruitful ministry in the world.**

- You will learn more of the Savior’s heart for the unsaved when you spend time with Him in tears of worship.

**9. It’s hard to sin when you’re singularly-focused on worshipping the Savior.**

- Idleness for the believer is a recipe for temptation and sinful activity. (Ministry!)

**10. You will pray most effectively when thinking little of yourself and much of Jesus.**

- It’s hard to pray with diligence if you have little love for Jesus.

**11. Your present circumstances may not get *easier* once you’re saved, but your eternity will be infinitely *better*.**

- The ex-prostitute’s life probably became very difficult after this experience. But she is in heaven now and that’s all that matters.

**12. Before you can worship at the feet of Jesus you might first trust Him at the foot of the Cross.**

- Salvation comes before true worship. Have you placed your place in Jesus as Lord and Savior ... or are you merely a Christian because your family made you go to church?