

Jesus: A Friend of Sinners
Series: Luke
December 31, 2017 **Pastor Bill Bump**

As we begin a new year, the best news for each of us is that Jesus is a friend of sinners.

There is no sin so awful that it can't be completely forgiven by Jesus.

Let's look at Luke 7:36-50.

An interrupted dinner party:

Luke 7:36-39 ³⁶ *One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat.* ³⁷ *When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume.* ³⁸ *Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them.*

³⁹ *When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!"*

Luke wanted us to know this person wasn't just another woman; this person was a sinner.

The word used for sinner was a term used by the Pharisees to describe tax collectors and prostitutes.

Jesus saw a contrite heart.

Luke 7:40-50 ⁴⁰ *Then Jesus answered his thoughts. "Simon," he said to the Pharisee, "I have something to say to you."*

"Go ahead, Teacher," Simon replied.

⁴¹ *Then Jesus told him this story: "A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver to one and 50 pieces to the other. ⁴² But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?"*

⁴³ *Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt."*

"That's right," Jesus said. ⁴⁴ Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn't offer me water to wash

the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ *You didn't greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet.* ⁴⁶ *You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume.*

⁴⁷ *"I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love."* ⁴⁸ *Then Jesus said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven."*

⁴⁹ *The men at the table said among themselves, "Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?"*

⁵⁰ *And Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."*

The woman was no longer what she what she once was, a woman weighed down by the burden of sin.

Then Jesus went on to contrast the action of the so-called immoral woman with those of the self-righteous Pharisee.

Jesus was saying that the woman's outpouring of love of was the result of a sense of having been forgiven.

In verse 48, Jesus declared the woman's sins to be forgiven, which was a fulfillment of Jesus' ministry.

Luke 5:32 [*Jesus said,*] *"I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent."*

The key to this woman's new life in Jesus was that she had placed her faith in Jesus as the only One who could forgive her sins.

Conclusion

The spiritual principle taught in this passage is: To the degree we appreciate the forgiveness of our sins through Jesus, we love Him and are willing to love other sinners who also need a Savior.

In order to love God deeply in 2018, we must understand the depth of our sin and the greatness of His forgiveness.