

TEXT: Luke 7:36-50

THEME: COMMITTED TO CHRIST

CUE 16—ripped—Luke 7:36-50 ³⁶Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, ³⁸and 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. ³⁹When 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." ⁴⁰Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. ⁴¹"Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. ⁴⁴Then 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. ⁴⁵You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." ⁴⁸Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Dear Fellow Subjects of Christ the King:

CUE 17—Can four words change your life? They most certainly can! Consider these:

CUE 18—"I'm sorry, it's cancer." No matter what the outcome, after that diagnosis, your life will never be the same. **CUE 19—**"Yes, you are pregnant." After the initial joy or shock of that announcement, the rest of your life is changed. **CUE 20—**"Car repair—one thousand." That may not seem life-changing, but what if you don't have the thousand dollars and cannot get the thousand dollars? No car could mean no job and no job could mean no food, clothing, or shelter. **CUE 21—**"Please take a number." Okay, that maybe isn't LIFE changing, but if you are at the Secretary of State's office and your number is 83 and they just called number 47, your life is going to be put on hold for quite a while. **CUE 22—**"The baby needs changing." That means you have to interrupt whatever you were doing to take care of an unpleasant task, especially if the baby just started eating solid food. **CUE 23—**"You are being audited"—that's the financial equivalent of a colonoscopy.

King Jesus changes lives, and he did so in our text with just four words: **CUE 24—**"Your sins are forgiven."

Let me tell you a true story. A woman was on an intercontinental flight. She called the flight attendant over and told her she had chest pains and thought she was having a heart

attack. The flight attendant immediately asked, “Is there a doctor on board?” At that point, 67 people stood up. Wow! She then asked, “Are any of you a heart doctor?” They all remained standing. They were headed to a convention for cardiac surgeons. Imagine the woman’s joy and relief when she saw the doctors. They were ready, willing, and able to effectively diagnose her problem and prescribe the right treatment. They had the knowledge, the expertise, and the desire to take care of her and meet her needs.

Friends, I want to tell you that our wonderful King, Jesus Christ, stands ready, willing, and able to help you today. He is the Great Physician and you being here right now is not by accident. It is by Divine Appointment! Christ the King has already diagnosed your problem. He has already provided and prescribed the correct treatment through his Word. He already has the knowledge he needs about you individually because he knows everything about you, even the things you haven’t told him or anyone else. He has the expertise and ability to take care of you. He has the deep desire to take care of you and see you made whole again.

CUE 25—As we look at the account in our text for today, with which person do you identify? Are you the woman? She was gutsy, because women were not invited as guests to such banquets, but she came anyway. She is identified as a sinner; the Greek word means “open sinner,” one with a shady past and shadowy reputation. By the way, there is no proof that this was Mary Magdalene as some claim. Nor can we say that she was a prostitute since nothing is said about what had tainted her reputation. She was deeply convicted of her sin and approached Jesus in spite of all the strikes against her. In response to his message of forgiveness, she gave her most highly valued possession—costly perfume in an exquisite jar. Nothing was too good for Jesus in her estimation. Luke tells us that she was weeping. They were tears of repentance and tears of gratitude. Then she used her hair, a woman’s crown and glory, to dry her Savior’s feet as she kissed them again and again.

CUE 26—Or are you the host of the banquet, the wealthy Pharisee, Simon? He had invited Jesus to his house for a fine meal, but it appears his motives were less than wholesome. He was considerate, but self-righteous. He considered himself better than the sinful woman. After all, he was a good moral person—good in religion, good in outward behavior. And he sensed no need for forgiveness in his life. But many “good” people are on their way to hell because they don’t realize you can’t get to heaven by being good, only through faith in Jesus as their Savior from sin.

Which person are you? All of us are in one category or another. Either we sense our great need for forgiveness and salvation or we don’t. Simon and the woman were both sinners. Simon’s sins were more hidden while the woman’s sins were known. Except before God, they were both spiritually bankrupt and could not pay their debt to God. And there we are! All sinners...all spiritually bankrupt...all unable to pay our debt to God...all in desperate need...and all in the presence of Jesus who forgives our sins and sets us free.

CUE 27—What an incredible moment when Jesus said those four life-changing words: “**Your sins are forgiven.**” Jesus still speaks those words today. He’s talking to YOU! He’s addressing YOU! He’s addressing ME! He’s addressing US! This is not some cold,

impersonal, or flippant comment. He's not talking about someone else's sins. He's talking to YOU. You can't do anything about anyone else's sin, so quit worrying about them, and start dealing with your own. Jesus is addressing YOU today.

CUE 28— “Forgiven.” What a word! It means that you have been pardoned; your sins have been canceled. You have been loosed and set free. Your sins have been released from you. You have been freed from the slavery to sin to become a servant of Christ your King. You now have the ability to follow after God instead of running away from him. You now have the ability to flee from sin and run to the Lord. You can be **COMMITTED TO CHRIST**.

Now, as good Lutherans, we just have to ask, “What does this mean?” What are the implications for us today and everyday of being **COMMITTED TO CHRIST**? It means we worship him weekly here at church. It means we receive Holy Communion regularly. It means we study his Word in Bible classes and small groups and on our own, individually. It means we strive to live our everyday lives in accordance with God's Word and will. It means we seek opportunities to tell others about Christ the King, our one and only Savior from sin. It means we try to help and do good to all people. It means that because we are forgiven, we will forgive others. And we must forgive ourselves. **CUE 29—**Some of us may need a big dose of Extra Strength “Forgiven-All!” We may be holding onto the guilt and misery of some past sins because we have trouble believing they could ever be forgiven. Then we have trouble forgiving others and living a life **COMMITTED TO CHRIST**. **CUE 30—**My friends, remember the four words Jesus spoke to the woman and the four words he speaks to you today, right now: **“Your sins are forgiven.”**

The form of the word Jesus used for “forgiven” meant that the woman had been forgiven and now stands as forgiven. Through Spirit-worked faith in Christ the King as our Savior, the same is true of each of us. We have been forgiven in the past, and we now stand forgiven in the present. Can there be any greater reason for each of us to be totally **COMMITTED TO CHRIST**? Let your commitment show this week and always. Amen.