



AWCI SERMON *Notes & Announcements*

DATE: Sept. 14th, 2025

SPEAKER: Bishop (Dr.) Vincent Collins

SERMON SERIES: SHIFT – A New Season of Divine Favor **SERMON TITLE:** Pathway To His Presence

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KEY PASSAGE

Text: Luke 7:36–50 (NIV): When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, Jesus went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town, known for living a sinful life, learned that Jesus was eating there. Bringing an alabaster jar of perfume, she stood behind Him at His feet, weeping. She began to wet His feet with her tears, wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and poured perfume on them. When the Pharisee saw this, he thought, "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."

Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

"Tell me, teacher," Simon replied.

Jesus continued, "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed five hundred denarii, the other fifty. Neither could repay, so he forgave the debts of both. Now, which of them will love him more?"

Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."

"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

Turning toward the woman, He 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. You did not give Me a kiss, but this woman has not stopped kissing My feet. You did not put oil on My head, but she has poured perfume on My feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

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

INTRODUCTION

This scene unfolds in the home of Simon the Pharisee. Pharisees were religious leaders who prided themselves on strict observance of the law, often valuing rules over relationships. Jesus consistently challenged this mindset, showing that God's heart is not about empty ritual, but authentic devotion.

Simon offered Jesus no real hospitality—no water for His feet, no welcoming kiss, no oil for His head. In contrast, the woman, out of gratitude and love, went far beyond custom. Her actions were not mere ritual; they were a heartfelt response to Jesus. Jesus affirmed her faith and forgave her sins, illustrating what happens when devotion shifts from ritual to real relationship.

A spiritual shift is a God-initiated change that moves us from where we are to where He wants us to be.

SERMON POINTS

Pushing Past The Barriers

"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. 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."

(Luke 7:37–38, NIV)

"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

(Philippians 3:13–14, NIV)

Pouring Out What's Precious

"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."

(Luke 7:38, NIV)

"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."

(Ephesians 5:15–16, NIV)

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

(1 Peter 4:10, NIV)

Personal Surrender Produces Transformation

"Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. Then Jesus said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.'"

(Luke 7:47–48, NIV)

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

(2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV)

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!"

(Isaiah 43:18–19, NIV)

BEYOND THE MESSAGE

God is calling for a shift where we don't just give Him our leftovers, but our best. And when you pour out what's precious, you open the door for Him to pour back purpose, peace, and power into your life. And when devotion costs you something, it produces something powerful in return. The fragrance of sacrifice doesn't just stay at the altar—it fills the room, touches lives, and leaves a legacy.

In Luke 7 the woman pursuit teaches us something: God's presence doesn't come to the passive, but to the desperate. It doesn't fill the complacent, but those willing to press through the warfare, break tradition, and pour out all they have. Just as she shifted the room with her worship, you and I can shift the atmosphere around us when we pursue His presence with everything we've got.

Whether you're a first-time guest or a long-time member, we invite everyone to fill out our Connect Card—just scan the QR code to update your information, share prayer requests, and take your next step, whether that's joining a membership class, signing up for baptism, finding a life group, volunteering, or simply learning more about our church.