# AGAPE WORSHIP CENTER INTERNATIONAL (AWCI)

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tes & Announcemen AWCI SERMON DATE: Sept. 14th, 2025

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

## KEY PASSAGE

**SPEAKER:** Bishop (Dr.) Vincent Collins

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

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

(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.

Everything God creates has an environment that sustains it. In the same way, man was made for the presence of God. From the beginning in Genesis, Adam and Eve walked with God in the cool of the day. Humanity's true environment is not the noise of culture, the pressure of performance, or the wilderness of sin. Our spirit breathes, thrives, and flourishes in the presence of God. Just as fish die without water, so too do we wither without His presence.

Your past doesn't disqualify you from devotion—it qualifies you for grace.

'But where sin increased, grace increased all the more." (Romans 5:20, NIV)

Jesus is not focused on what you've done; He's focused on what you're willing to surrender today. The woman entered carrying shame, but left with peace. She came in with a reputation, but left with a new identity. That's the power of devotion—it produces transformation that shifts your entire life for God's glory.

# **Devotion Shifts Your Identity**

'Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

(John 1:12, NIV)

You are no longer defined by your past—you are defined by your position in Christ.

## **Devotion Shifts Your Purpose**

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.' (Ephesians 2:10, NIV)

The moment you surrender, God releases His assignment over your

## **Devotion Shifts Your Future**

"For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a

(Jeremiah 29:11, NIV)

# NOTES

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please note: There are multiple ways to sign up for an event. You can scan the QR code, visit our website, or sign the signup sheet in the foyer under the event registration section.

Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> - Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm: Wednesday Night Bible Study: Blueprint of Faith: The Nehemiah Bible Study!

Oct. 15th-Nov. 19th at Various Dates & Times: Fall Into Fun: Agape's Interest Groups. Scan the QR Code to sign up today. For more information, contact the Christian Education Department.



Nov. 1st at 10am-3pm -AWCI Community & Health Fair. For more information, contact: Deacon Eureka Washington.



# SPIRITUAL GROWTH & FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

# Sunday School

- Every Sunday at 10:10 am-10:55 am.
- Scan QR Code to Sign Up & receive a digital copy of the Sunday School Book.



## Men's Ministry Meeting.

- Every 3rd Saturday, 8:30 AM.
- At Agape Worship Center International
- All men are invited.
- More information: Contact Deacons Teddy Spence or Eureka Washington.

# Breakfast For Champions: Weekday Devotion & Prayer

- Monday-Friday at 7 am
- Call In: 717-908-1690 Access Code: 577625

### **Intercessory Prayer**

• Every 1st, 2nd, and 4th Monday at 6:30pm-7:30pm

# Virtual Midday Bible Study - Starting Back August 14th, 2025

- Every Thursday at noon
- Call In: (470)869-2200 (US East)
- Meeting ID: 393-678-9202
- Virtual:meetings.ringcentral.com/j/3936789202

# **CONNECT, GROW, BELONG!**

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, simply learning more about our church.

