

1. **GOD LOVES YOU** and wants you to have **eternal life with Him**.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

But most people aren't experiencing a meaningful life and aren't sure that they have eternal life because...

2. Man has a **SIN problem** which **SEPARATES** him from GOD. Every one has sinned.

Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

3. The **good news** is that **JESUS CHRIST** is God's **solution** to your sin problem. He is the **ONLY way** to heaven.

1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ also died for sins once and for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God..."

4. Therefore you must **REPENT** of your sins and place your **FAITH** in **JESUS alone** to **save** you.

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the GIFT OF GOD; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

5. Upon believing and receiving Jesus, you have a **NEW LIFE** with complete assurance of **SALVATION**.

1 John 5:13 "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

Jesus Forgives, Love Like Him

(Luke 7:36-50)
Last week's message

Jesus showed us **Agape** or unconditional love so that we, too, can love people unconditionally. We are able to genuinely love God and people when we know and understand how deep and wide God's love is for us, as demonstrated by Jesus' death on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. In CCF, our working definition of true love *is an enduring commitment towards imperfect people seeking their highest good which often requires sacrifice.*

Worship of a sinner (v. 36-38)

Jesus Christ was invited by Simon, a Pharisee, to dine with him at his home. And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner (v. 37), who saw her opportunity to see Jesus in person. It seemed that Simon did not extend the customary courtesy to Jesus such as giving him water to wash his feet or greet Him with a kiss. On the other hand, the woman had the humility to wash, dry, kiss and anoint the feet of the Lord Jesus. Facing humiliation and rejection from the Pharisee and other people, the woman's yearning to see and to worship Jesus was greater than her fear of others. It was her act of worship and it was all worth it.

Jesus actively pursues all who are lost (v. 39-47)

The Pharisees looked down at Jesus for spending time to talk with drunkards and tax collectors and being the friend of sinners (Luke 7:34). The Pharisees wanted to project a clean image so they would not associate with sinners. But not so with Jesus. Jesus came to save sinners (Luke 19:10) and He equally wanted to be a friend of the Pharisees.

The opportunity Jesus gave to Simon by dining with him shows his commitment to offer the gospel to all sinners, regardless of their past, background or stature in life. He showcased his unconditional love and His power to forgive sins to a "religious" Pharisee by using the very person the Pharisee despised the most - the immoral woman.

The woman was not forgiven because she loved much. Forgiveness came first, then love was the result. The woman's external actions reflected her faith towards Jesus. Her humility echoed a broken, repentant heart. Therefore, she received forgiveness and Jesus accepted her worship. To love because you are forgiven is a natural response to grace.

Absolute forgiveness brings real peace (v. 48-50)

While we live in this world, we will still struggle with our sin and brokenness. Allowing the peace of Christ to rule our hearts means we must confess our sins when the Spirit of God convicts us through his Word. Unconfessed sin hinders us from experiencing the peace of Christ. Remember His promise that *if we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness* (1 John 1:9). Genuine confession requires a 100% admission of sin.

God knows everything about us, and yet He offers us absolute, 100% forgiveness as a gift. When we come into His presence and say "Lord, I'm sorry," we receive it. When God has forgiven you, you know you're completely forgiven.

