



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



Come Unto Me

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Bob Bradley

Does anybody remember the scripture I read this morning? Anybody? “Come to me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” Do you remember that?

What I want to talk about tonight is a portion of an event that happened the same time that Jesus spoke those words. When you look at the Bible, when you read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; we can get a whole lot better picture of what Jesus did and we can see chronologically sometimes the things that He did. When you look at that, you can insert things, or things are inserted in where that you can get a picture of how events really happened as whole; get a whole picture of things. You know Mark tell what he saw and heard. Matthew tells what he saw and so forth.

The scripture I read to you this morning about “Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden...” as I read this story tonight, I think that Jesus has just spoken those words when He began to speak these words here.

The gospel of Luke chapter 7, starting in verse 36...

Luke 7:36 And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

Luke 7:37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

Luke 7:38 And stood at his feet behind *him* weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe *them* with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed *them* with the ointment.

Luke 7:39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw *it*, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman *this is* that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

Luke 7:40 And Jesus answering said unto him, **Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee.** And he saith, Master, say on.

Luke 7:41 **There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.**

Luke 7:42 **And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?**

Luke 7:43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that *he*, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, **Thou hast rightly judged.**

Luke 7:44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, **Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped *them* with the hairs of her head.**

- Luke 7:45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.
- Luke 7:46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.
- Luke 7:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, *the same loveth little.*
- Luke 7:48 And he said unto her, **Thy sins are forgiven.**
- Luke 7:49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?
- Luke 7:50 And he said to the woman, **Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.**

Again, as we read the story, I think that Jesus has just spoken the words, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” As I read the story, as I read the Bible, I personally believe and, if I understand things right, this sinner, this lady here is no doubt, known to the community, that is known to everybody in town here; there is no doubt in my mind that she is in the crowd when she hears Jesus say, “Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” We don’t know anything about this lady. We don’t know her name. We don’t know much about her. The only thing we know is that she is a sinner. When the Bible says that she is a sinner, she probably didn’t have a good reputation. She probably lived a life that was not accepted of other people. One thing before I move on here. I don’t want you to think that this was Mary in Bethany if you read John 12, this is not the same lady. This is not Mary Magdalene like someone wants to say. We don’t know who this lady is. We do know that this lady is a sinner. We do know that this lady has heard a word somewhere that got her attention. She has heard Jesus speak some words that not only has she heard with her ears but she has heard with her heart. Something that has touched this lady deep down within—a lady that was lonely, a lady that was lost, a lady that was no doubt living a very loose and immoral life, a lady here that needed a change. She had heard the man from Galilee, she had heard a man called Jesus simply say, “Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.”

Do you know what our world needs today? They need rest. People in our world today, needs rest. They need rest from their sin. Do you know what they need also? They need the peace of God. As the story goes, here as the lesson is being preached and taught; the Bible tells us here that there was a Pharisee. We know the Pharisees here, when we look at verse 36, we know that the Pharisees were religious people. We know that people here that were very well versed in the Bible. They read it. They studied it. they knew what it said. They knew the five books of Moses. They were very religious. They wore all the garments. They expected people, or most of them did to reverence them and greet them in the marketplace and call them rabbi, rabbi. They expected all of that.

However, here is one of these guys. The Bible tells us that he invites Jesus to come and eat with him. The Bible says that Jesus goes here to eat with this fellow here. I don't know for sure what the motives are of this fellow, but I don't think they are good because of what he is going to do on down through here.

When you read the scriptures, you will find out on many different times that there were different people that tried to do things to trap Jesus, or trap Him in His words, or get Him to say something or do something that they could find accusation and accuse Him.

However, the Bible tells us that there was a sinner. There was a woman here that was a sinner. Get this. I don't know how this all came about. I don't know how this woman gets in to where Jesus is at. I don't know that for sure, but I do know that He has been invited to a house. He has been invited to a Pharisee's house. This guy here probably had all kinds of friends. We know that they had people sitting here eating with them. As they are sitting here...

They did not have tables like you and I have today. They would sit on the floor and they would put some kind of a little table out in the middle and they would recline. Their head would be towards the table and their feet would be backwards.

Here Jesus is and these guys are sitting around here eating. Do you know what happens? The Bible tells us, as I read to you...

Luke 7:37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that *Jesus* sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,

Here is what is going to happen. Here Jesus is sitting at the table surrounding with Pharisees that are there. Here is a lady that knows He is in there. The Bible tells us that she is a sinner. She was a woman of the town but she is a sinner. She had heard something along the line that got her attention.

Do you know what I am glad of? I am glad I heard somewhere a long time ago about a man called Jesus that loved me enough that He would save me even though I was a sinner, even though I was lost and doomed and damned; I heard a preacher preach one time, Jesus Christ loves you and He will forgive you.

This lady may have lived a very loose life. Do you know what? We are all sinners. Everyone of us are all sinners. Some of us may have lived lives worse than others. However, we all needed a Savior. Thank God, Jesus "...came to seek and to save that which is lost." Here she is. Here are Jesus and the Pharisees sitting around the table. They are all reclining, feet out and head towards the table. They eat bread. They would break pieces of bread and dip it in sauce that had vinegar in it and so forth and sometimes honey. They would eat it. Here they are. Here is this lady that is a sinner. She hears Jesus is at this guy's house. She comes in and she comes carrying something we know that is very expensive. We know she comes in carrying an alabaster box of ointment. The Bible says this.

Luke 7:38 And stood at his feet behind *him* weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe *them* with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed *them* with the ointment.

I want you to picture that in your mind. Here they are. They are reclining upon the floor. Here they are eating. Here they are in a religious guy's house then here comes in this woman of the street. A woman that no doubt, everybody knew she was a sinner that she had lived a life that wasn't good.

Aren't you glad today that Jesus Christ does not care what kind of life that we have lived. When we will get serious with Him, do you know what He will do? The Bible will tell us, and we know He will forgive us.

Here comes this lady and she stood behind Him. His head towards the table and His feet going backwards. Do you know what she began to do? The Bible says she is weeping. She is weeping. She is crying. Do you know what she does? The tears that are running from her eyes began to fall upon Jesus' feet. Do you know what she does? She takes the hair of her head and begins to dry His feet with her hair. Not only does she do that but the Bible tells us here that she kisses His feet. When you read that in the original, it brings out the idea that not only did she kiss His feet one time but she continually kissed His feet. Not only did she do that but she took the ointment, something that was very valuable, something that was very precious and do you know what she did? She began to anoint the feet of Jesus. Do you know what this lady had done? She had experienced something great. She had experienced forgiveness of her sins. Do you know why? It was being proven by what she was doing. She was in the house of a Pharisee. She was in the house of somebody that was very religious. Something had happened to this woman. Do you know why? Because she was living a different kind of life. She is coming and she is worshipping and she is praising the God that has saved her.

Listen. When you get saved, you will be able to praise God. Amen! Do you know what you will do? You will do things that you have never done before. Amen! You will do things that you have never done before.

She was not allowed to be here. Rabbis and Pharisees did not eat with women. This rabbi, this Pharisee would never have invited this woman to come to his house. He would have never done that. He would have never invited this woman there.

Are you not glad, even though when religion will not receive people and when religion wants to exclude people and when religion wants to exclude certain types of people; are you not glad that Jesus excludes no one? There is no throw away people with God. It does not matter how bad you have been. It does not matter what happened in life or what you have done or how bad you have been. Jesus Christ has come to save you, my friend. He will do that if you will just come unto Him.

The Bible tells us here in the next verse. Look what happens here.

She has kissed the Lord's feet. She has washed His feet with the tears from her eyes. She has dried His feet with her own hair. Now here is a Pharisee sitting there. Here he is, no doubt; he is very self-righteous. No doubt, he thinks that he has everything and that he knows everything. Do you know what? He did not know what he thought he knew. The Bible says this...

Luke 7:39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw *it*, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman *this is* that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

In other words, when he saw this lady, when she began to kiss His feet and to wash His feet, then take her hair and to dry His feet; he began to say within himself—he did not say it out loud—but he said, hey if this guy was truly a prophet, he would have known what kind of a woman this woman was.

Do you know what friend? Jesus was a prophet and He knew exactly what kind of woman this lady was. Do you know what He knows about you and me? He knows all about us. He knows who we are. He knows we have nothing to offer. He knows that we are just sinners. Thank God, He loves us anyway. He saves people like me and you. Are you not glad for that? You should be.

Don't be like the Pharisee. Don't stick out your chest and think you don't need forgiveness. You do need forgiveness. If you are saved today—you may want to write this one down, this is a big one—even though you are saved today, you still yet need forgiveness. If you are not saved today, you need forgiveness. Amen!

Listen. We are born again today but we still need forgiveness. We need cleansing every day. No, we don't get saved all over again. No, we don't do that.

Do you know what? Living in this world, the Bible will tell us—do you know what will happen as we go through this life? We will get contaminated. As we walk. As we go to work. As we are around people. As we go where we go in life, our life gets dirty. We get contaminated. Do you know what I am glad of? I am glad that we have a God that not only will save me from my sins, when I will take my sins unto Him and ask Him to cleanse me—do you know what He will do? He will cleanse me. He will forgive me and wash me. He will pick me up and sit me on the right way again. Do you know what He will do? He will tell me, let's get on with it.

The Bible tells us here...

Luke 7:39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw *it*, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman *this is* that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

Do you know what this Pharisee would have never done? He would have never allowed this woman to touch him.

Listen friend. You can touch Jesus. I don't care how sinful you may be. It doesn't matter how vile you may have been in life. You can touch Jesus Christ, and do you

know what you are not going to do? You are not going to defile Him. Do you know what will happen? When you touch Him, He will change you. He will forgive you. He will take you from a sinner and make you and saint. He will take you from somebody that loves sin to somebody that will hate sin. He will put from a wrong road and put you on a right road. Touch Him. Call upon Him and He will forgive you tonight. He will do that.

Here they are. Eating. The lady comes in crying and weeping. She goes behind where Jesus is at. She cries. Her tears flooding out of her eyes and falling on His feet. She takes the hair that she has and dries His feet with her hair. She kisses His feet. She takes the flax here of perfume that she has. She breaks it. She pours this perfume on Jesus' feet.

Here is Simon the Pharisee, sitting over here all along. Self-righteous. Hey, if He really was a prophet, He would know what kind of woman that is. If He was really who He says He says He is and claims to be; He would not be allowing this woman who is so sinful, that has a so bad reputation; if He was really who He says He is, He wouldn't allow her to touch him.

Do you know what I am glad of? I'm glad He allowed me to touch Him one time. Not only that but also, I'm glad He touched me one time. Are you not glad He called? When I was lost and when you were lost and doomed and damned and on your way to a lake of fire; He came knocking. Jesus came knocking. He touched you. He touched your life. He called you.

Jesus knew exactly what was in Simon's heart. He knew exactly what he was thinking. Jesus said, "Hey, I have something I need to say to you." Do you know what Simon said? "Okay, go ahead." That is what he said. He begins to speak a parable to him about two different people. Get this. Here is the whole story. Two different people. You are going to find yourself in one of these stories, one of these people.

Luke 7:41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

Even back then they had banks that loaned money. They had people that loaned money. You know. Like we do today. We have people at banks that loan money, where there are creditors and debtors. Here was a certain creditor.

Luke 7:41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

In today's terms, here is a guy that had loaned some money to two different people. One guy owed him \$50 and one guy owed him \$5. Now one guy owed ten times more than the other guy did. Jesus asked this question.

Luke 7:42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

Do you get that? One creditor, two debtors. One owed \$50 and one owed \$5. The creditor because the debtors had nothing to pay him back; he freely, or frankly forgave them both. No questions asked. They did not have to sign any papers. They did not have to put up any collateral. He simply forgave the debt. One owed \$50 and one owed \$5. One owed ten times as much as the other guy did. However, this creditor forgave them both.

Luke 7:42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

This picture is in Simon's head. Simon is thinking how sinful and wicked this woman is that is in his house. She is over here crying. She is messing up the party. Here this guy that claims to be the Messiah, the King of Israel that is doing all this stuff. She is over here crying on Him and wiping His feet with her hair. She is anointing His feet. She is kissing His feet. She is doing all this stuff.

Now Jesus has got a story for him. One creditor, two debtors. One owes ten times more than the other. The creditor freely forgave them both. Bam! Both debts are canceled. He looks at Simon and He says, "Simon I want to ask you a question. Which of them will love him most?" That is a fair question. Don't you think? It is a fair question.

Do you know why it is a fair question? Because Jesus knew how self-righteous that Simon really was. Jesus knew how self-righteous that Simon really was. Simon could look at this lady—he looked at her. She is a woman of the street. She is doing all kinds of horrible stuff. She is a sinner. However, when he looked at himself in the mirror; he could not see himself as a sinner. Amen! According to Simon, in Simon's eyes—get this—the lady owed \$50 and he only owed \$5. Simon looked at himself and looked at this woman. This woman in Simon's eyes was a whole lot bigger sinner than what he was. She was a woman of the street. She is a sinner. She did all kinds of horrible stuff. I'm better than she is.

Jesus is going to prove this to him here. He looked at himself as being so much better than this lady. Jesus said, "One of them owes \$50 and one of them owes \$5. Which one will love the most?" Simon made the statement... Get this.

Luke 7:43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that *he*, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, **Thou hast rightly judged.**

He probably did not want to answer at all. I would say about this time Simon was getting a little hot. Simon is figuring out here that maybe he should not have invited this guy to dinner after all. He says here...

Luke 7:43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that *he*, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, **Thou hast rightly judged.**

The Bible says that Jesus said unto him...

Luke 7:43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that *he*, to whom he forgave most. And

he said unto him, **Thou hast rightly judged.**

Get this folks. It does not matter who we are. It does not matter how much we owe. Some of us, in some of our lives; we were a whole lot more corrupt—none of us in here, I hope, did not rob any banks. You know. If you did, I don't anything about it. We probably have done a whole lot of things like we hear every day going on. Let me say it this way. When we look at people who does horrendous crimes, against society and humanity; they did horrible things. Then we look at our own lives and maybe we haven't been quite as bad. We want to put them on a different level than us.

Here is the thing I want you to get. We all owe a price that we cannot pay whether it is \$50 or \$5, whether it is 500 pence or 50 pence; we all owed a debt that we could not pay. It was beyond us. Do you know what happened?

Many years ago, do you remember the lady...she was in prison in Texas. She did some horrible crimes when she was a teenager or maybe early twenties. She was on drugs. She killed a bunch of people and did some horrible things. They put her in prison. The sentenced her to death as they should have. This lady; she gets saved while she is in prison. She had a tremendous testimony. Do you know what? She owed a debt that she could not pay. She did some horrible crimes against people and humanity. However, do you know what happened? The same God that saved you, is the same God that forgave her. She owed a bunch. Her debt was great according to society. She couldn't pay it. amen! However, the same God that forgave her is the same God that saved the person that never drank a drop, that never cussed one time, that never stole anything from anybody, that always paid their debts, that was always good—it is the same God that saves them both. Even though our debt, as we look at it, was greater. Some may have owed 500 pence and some only 50. Some owed \$50 and some only owed \$5. Do you know what we all needed? We all needed forgiveness. We could not save ourselves. We could not forgive ourselves. Jesus said here...

Luke 7:43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that *he*, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, **Thou hast rightly judged.**

You have answered right. Do you know what Jesus said? “Thou hast rightly judged.” He began to say this.

He turns and looks at the woman, but He says this, and He is speaking to Simon when He says this.

Luke 7:44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, **Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped *them* with the hairs of her head.**

Do you get that? He turns and looks at the woman and says to Simon, “See thou this woman? Look at her. Look at this woman Simon. I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet.” He looks at her and says to Simon, “You look at this woman. I came into your house and you did not offer me no water for my feet.”

That was very customary at that time. They offered water for their feet. They washed their feet. That started way back in Abraham's time. This guy being who he was and thought he was better than everybody else. He was self-righteous. He did not even offer Jesus any water for His feet, but the Bible says here.

Luke 7:44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, **Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped *them* with the hairs of her head.**

Simon, you wouldn't even set a pan of water down so that I could wash my feet. Here this lady is crying and weeping, and she has washed my feet with her tears. She has dried my feet with her hair. The Bible says...

Luke 7:45 **Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.**

You did not come up and give me a handshake. You did not come up and give me a kiss on my cheek and greet me when I came in. You have not been very hospitable to me Simon.

Luke 7:45 **Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.**

Simon, you did not give me any water to wash my feet. She has washed my feet with her tears. Simon, you did not greet me. You did not give me a handshake. You did not give me a kiss on the cheek. However, this lady since the time I came in, she has ceased not to kiss my feet. Do you see what that says?

Luke 7:46 **My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.**

Simon, you did not anoint my head with oil when I came in. you did not do that Simon. You are religious. You are a Pharisee. You should have offered me some water for my feet if you are who you say you are. You should have anointed my head. You should have done some things to greet me. You did not do any of that. However, this lady that you say is a sinner has done everything that you should have done.

Luke 7:46 **My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.**

She anointed my feet.

Luke 7:47 **Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, *the same* loveth little.**

Simon, her sins which are many are forgiven for she loved much. Do you know what...did? She proved—get this—that she loved much because of what she did.

It doesn't matter what we do. It does not matter whether we come to church. It does not matter whether we worship, give, sing, visit—friend, let me tell you something; it matters. It matters.

Jesus looks at her and says...

Luke 7:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, *the same loveth little.*

She was not concerned about what Simon and the rest of the Pharisees had to say. They did not like her anyway. They did not want to be around her. They would not shake hands with her. They would not invite her to a dinner to eat. They would never greet her if they were outside. She was an outcast to them. She was a nobody. She was a worthless person. Yet Jesus sat there and allowed her to wash His feet, to dry them with her hair, to kiss His feet, to anoint His feet with oil. Do you know why? Because she loved Him much. Jesus knew this lady loved Him. Jesus knew this lady loved Him much. Amen?

Folks listen.

Luke 7:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, *the same loveth little.*

Hey Simon, let me tell you something. You don't know anything about forgiveness. You do not love me like you say you do. You do not love God like you say you love God. You do not, Simon. If you loved God, if you love like you say you love then you would live differently, you would do differently. Forgiveness would be touching your life.

Luke 7:48 And he said unto her, **Thy sins are forgiven.**

Your sins are gone. Get this.

Luke 7:49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

Who does this guy think He is? The Pharisees knew beyond any shadow of a doubt that nobody could forgive sins but God. They knew that. But what they did not know what that God was sitting there with them. That is what they did not know. He could forgive sins because He was God. Amen! They did not know that.

Do you know what? This little street lady knew it. She knew exactly who Jesus was. She loved Him. She owed a great debt. Her sins were many. Yet she was forgiven much and because she was forgiven much, she loved much. Amen!

If God has done some great things for you, then you are going to appreciate it.

When God is doing great things for you, do you know what you are going to do? You want to tell people about it. When God is answering your prayers and changing your life and forgiving you of your sin, and all the mess ups that we make every day—we all do. When God is forgiving us of that when we ask Him; that will be reflected in our lives. That will be proved by our testimony. How that we live, what we do. what we say. Get this.

Jesus makes one more statement here that I want you to get.

Luke 7:50 And he said to the woman, **Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.**

He did not say this—because you washed my feet. He did not say—because you wept. He did not say—because you kissed my feet. He does not say—because you anointed my feet your sins are gone. He says, “Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.”

Get that?

Jesus said to this woman, “Thy faith...” thy faith in what? Faith in Him. That He is the Son of God, that He is the One that can give peace. “Thy faith hath saved thee...” get these other three words. “Go in peace.” When you read that in original, it brings out this idea/picture that means to go out in peace. Go out and enter into peace. Be surrounded by peace.

People may not like you. People may not forgive you for what you have done. Do you know what people do not do? people do not forget what you have done. People holds grudges. Christians hold grudges—that should not be, but they do.

Here is the thing. God forgave this lady on this day. He is going to give her something that she was longing for and it was peace. Peace in here. Peace down within here. He was giving her peace.

Go out and enter into peace.

Are you not glad for the peace of God tonight? You should be. If you are saved tonight, you have the peace of God. If you are not saved tonight, then you need the peace of God.

Come and pray—