

Are you desperate for God?

Greetings church! It's so great to be here again to preach the Word of God to you all here tonight. My heart leaps with joy, and great expectation every time I am asked to preach here because I know the Lord loves this church so much. I know God is moving in this congregation in ways that are having such a profound kingdom impact, and it's an honor of mine to crack open this Bible, teach this Word and to share with you all the words that God has laid on my heart. So I hope you all came expecting tonight! Because God surely wants to speak with you and me as we open His Word together.

My sermon tonight is titled "are you desperate for God?" and this is my question to you all tonight.....Are you desperate for God?

The scripture that I am going to preach on tonight is one that is near and dear to me, as it is one I have fallen in love with over the years. This scripture is found in Luke, chapter 7, verses 36-50 and it has to do with a Pharisee, an immoral woman and a forgiving Savior. One of the reasons this scripture is so special to me is because as I read this scripture I can see the principles of what Jesus is talking about as so relevant to my life, and to our lives as Christians.

I see so much on display here in this scripture but I want to focus on three things the Lord brought to my mind as I was spending time with this text. And those three things are distance, desperation and adoration.

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There is so much to unpack in this scripture, but for the sake of time I am going to narrow in and focus on these three points tonight. Distance, desperation and adoration. So do me a favor if you are a note taker, write these three words down as we make our way through this text.

SLIDE

If you can....please grab your Bible and turn to this scripture.....Luke 7:36-50.....you can also follow along on the screen with me as we dive into this text or you can open your Bible app and pull it up on your Android smartphone or your outdated Apple device (insert joke here).

We are going to read this entire story first, so that we can get familiar with this passage of scripture and then we are going to pray, and ask the Lord's blessing on us tonight before I start preaching about distance, desperation and adoration. So get your Bible ready, and your notepad ready if you are a note taker and follow along with me.

Luke 7:36-50 New Living Translation (NLT)

Jesus Anointed by a Sinful Woman

36 One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to have dinner with him, so Jesus went to his home and sat down to eat.[a] 37 When a certain immoral woman from that city heard he was eating there, she brought a beautiful alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume. 38 Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them.

39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She’s a sinner!”

40 Then Jesus answered his thoughts. “Simon,” he said to the Pharisee, “I have something to say to you.”

“Go ahead, Teacher,” Simon replied.

41 Then Jesus told him this story: “A man loaned money to two people—500 pieces of silver[b]to one and 50 pieces to the other. 42 But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?”

43 Simon answered, “I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt.”

“That’s right,” Jesus said. 44 Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, “Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn’t offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You didn’t greet me with a kiss, but from the time I first came in, she has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume.

47 “I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.” 48 Then Jesus said to the woman, “Your sins are forgiven.”

49 The men at the table said among themselves, “Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?”

50 And Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Let’s go to the Lord in prayer, before we go any further, because we are in desperate need for Jesus to move here amongst us tonight by the power of the Holy Spirit so let’s go to our Father and get awakened to His presence.

Let’s PRAY!

In Jesus name amen.....

SLIDE

(1) DISTANCE

So now that we have read the text, I want you to think about distance for a second. You see, I think this Pharisee, has many problems, but one of which is understanding distance. I think it's pretty clear from this text that he doesn't understand his distance from God, or the immoral woman. So let's look at distance for a second, and I'll show you what I am talking about.....

I want you to think about something for a moment.....**what is the furthest distance you have ever traveled? Like what's the furthest distance you have ever traveled to get to any particular destination?**

I'm going to need some participation from you guys tonite, so help me out here. So let's talk about flights.....

- Raise your hand if you have ever been on a plane.....
 - Keep your hand up if you have ever been on a plane ride longer than 4 hours.....
 - Keep your hand up if you have ever been on a plane ride, like one plane, longer than 6 hours.....
 - 9 hours.....
 - 12 hours.....?
 - Give away
 - Tell me, if you don't mind, how did you feel after traveling all of that distance in one plane? How did you feel after that trip?
 - Tired..... Exhausted?
- Okay, I know we have some active people in this congregation. Raise you are or ever have been a runner.....
 - Keep your hand up if you have ever ran a marathon.....that's 26 miles, straight through. Some of yall can't drive 26 miles without having to stop and use the restroom, let alone run 26 miles. And I would be in that category lol.
 - Keep your hand up if you have run at one time, more than 30 miles straight.....
 - 35 miles.....
 - 40 miles.....
 - 50 miles..... Keep going if people have....
 - Give away
 - Tell me, if you don't mind, how did you feel after a run like that?
 - Drained.....Tired..... Exhausted?

Traveling long distances can be exhausting, as we all know, and as these two people can attest. If you have ever traveled on a plane to a vacation spot, you normally keep your eyes on the prize, and often do whatever is needed to get to that destination. Plane, train, automobile, whatever the trip takes, we will do to get where it is we are trying to go to. Like this holiday season for instance, many of you may be gearing up for long trips home, or to visit loved ones to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Distance is something you understand surely. Speaking of distance and road trips.

I remember as a kid, my aunt and uncle used to take me on road trips every summer to Florida, and I know exactly how it felt to be crammed into a 2 door Lincoln all the way from PA to FL with six people in the car. LOOOOONNNNGGGG. And one road trip in particular stands out to me, and it has to do with a family vacation my family took to Ocean City, MD from PA. The trip itself wasn't super long, not in comparison to the long drives I was used to going to FL every summer, but something particular stood out to me as we were traveling about in the Ocean City area. I remember this clear as day, being around 13-14 years old, and thinking this was the funniest thing in the world. You know the road signs that are along the road that tell you the distance you need to travel to get to a certain city.

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If you are driving along 58 East, and see this sign, you know the exact distance you need to travel to get to Franklin, Norfolk or VA Beach, because you see the number of miles that you need to travel to get to one of these 3 places. Well, when I was on this trip with my family, at Ocean City, I saw a sign similar to this, but the sign says "Sacramento CA 3073."

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I remember as a kid thinking this was hilarious. Like, I was used to seeing signs that showed me the distance between where I am and where I am going, but the distances always seemed somewhat achievable. Surely someone messed up here and/or isn't understanding distance properly because this is not the type of sign we are used to seeing. This distance seems impossible. Like, the signs shown here earlier on 58 East, 33 miles isn't far, 76 miles is doable, and certainly so is 93 miles. I mean, I was even used to seeing signs on the highway indicating that you are hundreds of miles away from your destination, but to me, being in MD seeing a sign for CA with a mileage calculation in the THOUSANDS, I mean come on, this just seems like a joke. It had to be right, I guess but what in the world? I mean, even with my limited view of geography in my early teens I knew CA was way too far away to think anyone needed a sign indicating the miles it would take for them to get from East Coast to the West Coast. Oh man, this is still hilarious to me.

I actually did some research on this when I was sermon prepping, and this sign was put up in MD in the late 70's or early 80's by someone on the MD State Hwy Administration to indicate the beginning of Highway 50 that runs cross country from MD to CA. Okay, now this is making some sense to me, but it's still hilarious. Comical yes, so much so that someone working with the sign administration in CA reciprocated after visiting MD and seeing this comical sign in question, and had a sign in CA placed that read the opposite and is just as comical.....

SLIDE

Crazy right?! Definitely no need for either of these signs, but it does point to something that came to mind as I was spending time with this text. Distance is something we are familiar with in regards to many things, because of the cost it takes us to travel the distance. For those long plane rides, those long runs, and these long drives we can get a good understanding of distance because the journey takes its toll on us to some extent, and often in very strenuous ways.

And that's our first point as we start our journey through this text in Luke chapter 7, distance.

SLIDE

I don't think Simon, the Pharisee, understands the distance between Jesus and himself, and between himself and the immoral woman, like we understand distance between destinations in life as indicated in my stories here tonight. Simon doesn't look at Jesus and the immoral woman properly.

I think he is taking distance into consideration somewhat, knowingly or unknowingly, but his understanding is off.

You see, let's start with Simon's perception of the immoral woman. Simon's immediate thought here after this immoral woman crashes the party, starts kneeling at Jesus' feet, crying, washing and kissing His feet and pouring expensive perfume on Jesus' feet is..... "If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!" Simon's response in his heart and mind are shared with us here in scripture, and immediately it's judgement for the woman, and judgement toward Jesus going on in his thoughts. His thoughts likely could have been translated like this..... ***This sinner, what is she doing, if this dude were a prophet he would know this is unacceptable. He would really know who this woman is, and he wouldn't be permitting this.....***

Simon's response was fueled by his self-righteousness and him thinking of himself as NOT a sinner. You see, he didn't understand that the distance between him and the "immoral woman" was non-existent. That he too, was in the same EXACT position as the immoral woman, a sinner! Yes, he judged her right, she surely was a sinner, but he too, was the same, a sinner in need of grace. He just refused to see it that way. He refused to see himself as a sinner in need of grace and forgiveness. You see, he doesn't see himself as someone who is equally as separated from God as the immoral woman. His lack of understanding distance, and in placing distance where it doesn't belong caused him to immediately judge both the woman and Jesus. He judges her for her behavior, and he judges Jesus for allowing the behavior.

And, our precious Lord Jesus, uses this as a teachable moment in the life of this pharisee. The scripture in verse 40 says, "Then Jesus answered his thoughts...."

Let us not glance over this, Jesus is not addressing Simon's words, **but his THOUGHTS!** Simon doesn't even speak up, he just thinks these things and Jesus is like..... "um, hey man, we need to talk." This is another sermon for another day, but **there isn't one thought that goes through your mind that Jesus isn't fully aware of, and capable of addressing you on.**

He goes on to tell Simon the parable of two debtors. He's like look..... *One person was given 500 pieces of silver and one was given 50, neither could pay it back, so the man kindly forgives both debts. Simon, who loves the man more?* Simon answers, "i suppose" the one with the larger debt.

Interesting that Simon used the word “suppose.” In many different translations we see the same word used, “suppose” is used in the NLT, KJV, ESV, NIV, and MSG versions. And I know when I’m forced to give the right answer to something because it’s the truth, I often say the same words, “i suppose” rather reluctantly. Like when my wife lovingly asks me, “do your clothes belong on the floor or in the dresser?” and I reply, “i suppose the dresser.” You see, he’s essentially doing the same thing here with his answer to Jesus’ question. He’s answering it the right way, but his heart is coming out with his answer. “I suppose” the one who had the larger debt forgiven. Almost as if he doesn't want to admit it. And Jesus says, “that’s right.”

Let’s stop right here for a second and get to how Simon doesn’t understand distance between him and God. I think it’s clear from this scripture we are studying tonight that Simon doesn’t believe Jesus can offer forgiveness. It’s clear when we get to the end of this scripture and the men present (of whom Simon was one) says, “Who is this man that he goes around forgiving sins?” in verse 49.

You see, Simon, the pharisee is used to being defined by his behaviors, so he doesn’t see his need for the Savior. As a Pharisee, his righteousness was off the utmost importance to him. Keeping rules, keeping laws is what Simon likely thought “qualified” him for forgiveness, or so he thought. By doing this he thinks he is traveling the distance to get to God. He sees the distance between him and God as a distance to be traveled, and one that is attainable. He doesn’t see the distance as comical, as astronomical and unattainable by his own doing, he sees it as numerical. Almost like those roads signs we see on the road. This Pharisee is used to putting his faith in his own righteousness.

Like when he looks at the street signs on his journey through life on his path to God, he sees a mile marker on the sign. He sees a number, and that by working hard enough he can earn God’s favor, earn God’s love, and deserve His forgiveness by the way he lives. He’s got it all mixed up, his perception of his distance from God is skewed. And this not only affects how he treats others, as we just saw, but how he views God, and ultimately where he gets into this discussion with Jesus. If this pharisee were me as a kid in Ocean City, MD, he’s not laughing looking at the mile marker on that sign to CA. No, if God is in a distant far away place, he ACTUALLY thinks he can travel this path by the way he lives.

But that my friends, is a distorted view of distance, in regards to our relationship with God. You see, he has yet to have a revelation that the distance is ONLY travelable, by Jesus. That yes, there is a distance between all of humanity and God, but there isn’t a number of miles that need traveled by us, but a person who is the WAY, the truth and the life, Jesus Christ who TRAVELED that path to bring you in relationship with Christ. Not only did Jesus travel the distance, He is the WAY!

Simon failed to see the distance the correct way, and I think we do at times as well. We should see the distance as one that cannot be traveled by us EVER, and one that WAS traveled FOR us by Jesus, thus the way we should ALL view this distance between us and God is like this.....

SLIDE

The only way to get to God, is not by traveling the distance, but by trusting and believing that Jesus went the distance for us. **Because He did and we are to follow Him who traveled the distance.**

As we see in this scripture, Simon missed the distance. Let us not be mini Simon's and miss the distance as well. To God, sin in sin, and while one person may have fewer "sins" than others, and one may have more "sins" than others, we are all in need of the SAME grace and forgiveness to travel the distance to get to God. No one person is in greater need of God's grace than another.

One sin separates you from a holy and just God the same way as 1 MILLION sins separate you from the Father. Both people, the one who has fewer and the one who has many is in need of the same grace from the Lord, to go the distance.

So let me ask you this..... Do you properly understand distance, as we are talking about it tonight? Are you in awe of the forgiveness God has given you (like the immoral woman), or are you in disgust at the forgiveness He has given others (like the pharisee)?

SLIDE

Don't be a Simon..... You can't earn God's love, it's given to you. You can't earn His grace..... Don't get caught up in the judgemental comparison trap. Because this comparison often leads us to comparin' sins and that doesn't lead us to humility, that road is paved with pride. Church let's understand the distance properly, the distance between us, me and you, is non existent, we are all sinners in need grace, and the distance between us and God, once we understand that, should lead us to desperation, which is my next point.

SLIDE

(2) DESPERATION

As we see here in this text, the distance brought the immoral woman to a point of desperation where she realizes, all she needs in this life is Jesus! She got to this desperation point because she knew what she was forgiven of! While Simon didn't understand the distance, the immoral woman surely understood the distance.

The beginning of this text shows the fruit of someone who is desperate for Jesus. The scripture says she "heard he (Jesus) was eating" at Simon's. So she acts in faith, and brings all she has to him. And not only does she come to Jesus, but she crashes a party to do so. Because she surely wasn't invited to the pharisee's home. Think about that for a second! She didn't for one minute care what people may think of her. She didn't care about the snap judgement she likely knew she was about to get from Simon or anyone else. **All she cared about was being at the feet of Jesus.**

That's what being desperate does. It causes you to do things that people might consider strange. That people might consider a little "over the top." But she didn't think about that one bit. She didn't allow the perceptions of people to keep her from the presence of her Savior. And neither should you or I!

See because, she KNEW what she was forgiven of. She knew what she did wrong. She knew the way she was living was foul.

And let's not jump to conclusions about what her sins may have been, because in God's eyes it doesn't matter. Sin is sin, and the sin of pride is just as sinful and damaging to our relationship with God as the sin of promiscuity. Let's not rush to thinking her sin had to have been promiscuity, or adultery. The scripture doesn't say. I actually think that one of the reasons her sin isn't called out specifically here is **because the Holy Spirit doesn't desire us to get caught into the comparison of comparin' sins like I mentioned earlier.** The only thing we need to know is she had MANY sins, as Jesus says "they were many" and because she was forgiven of these many sins she loved MUCH.

The parable of the two debtors which is in the middle of this passage here is used to show us that when people come to a realization of how much they have been forgiven, their love for the Lord is proportionate with the debt they have been forgiven of. So the immoral woman loves much, because she has been forgiven much. She knows what she's been forgiven of, and it's so much, it was so heavy, it was so meaningful to her that the One who has power to forgive sin would do so freely and "kindly."

SLIDE

Know this, just like the man who loaned money in this parable "kindly forgave" both of the people who owed the debts, know the Lord Jesus kindly forgives us our debts as well. And the immoral woman knew the Lord kindly forgave her, and we see here an understanding of the truth that the Lord's kindness draws men to repentance (as Paul would say later on in Romans 2:4).

SLIDE

4 Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

The Lord isn't some grumpy father, begrudgingly forgiving us of our sins. He's not like "alright, I guess I will forgive you, now get out of my face and be gone." If you have this view of God, then it's a distorted view.

God kindly, forgives us our sins.

Can I get a show of hands if you know who this is?

SLIDE

Yes, it's Archie Bunker.....

I'm probably going to date myself a bit here, but I'm sure some of you all here tonight remember Archie Bunker, from the 70's sitcom All in the Family.

You know, the grumpy old dude who was the head of the Bunker family and who's temper could fly off the handle at a moments notice without considering those around him. One thing we can say for certain is that this dude is definitely not characterized by the word "kind." This father is the polar opposite of someone I would consider kind.

This fictional character would rule his family, and let his controversial comments fly from his lips from the infamous chair he agitatedly sat on in his living room. If you aren't familiar with Archie, just know this, he was grumpy, and he was known for having a temper.

Look, God the Father is nothing like Archie Bunker.

SLIDE

God isn't cruel, God isn't inconsiderate toward others, God rules from the throne of Heaven much better than Archie ruled from his chair in the living room. We must see the Lord's kindness as driving His forgiveness toward us. That, is what will draw out your worship when you get to your desperation point. Because you will see that despite your worst. Despite your deserving to be talked to with a judgmental and aggressive tone like that of Archie Bunker, your Father doesn't give you what you deserve.

Yes, we deserve wrath, we deserve anger, we deserve to be separate from God because of our sin and rebellion but, God doesn't treat us as we deserve, **he KINDLY forgives us.** Because He wants to. Because He loves us. Because He chose us to shower His grace on, despite the amount of sins that you have racked up or are racking up at this very moment.

You see, the immoral woman remembered what she was trapped in, and because of her thankfulness and gratitude for the kindness of the Lord expressed through Jesus Christ, she brought everything she had to the feet of Jesus. **Her expensive perfume meant nothing to her anymore, because what meant everything to her has now changed.** Jesus now meant everything to her so she brought everything to Him. And this is something we should take away and learn from as well.

SLIDE

Because, once when Jesus means everything to you, you will bring everything to Him.

Not only did she bring this sacrifice of her possessions to Jesus, but she brought her emotions to Him as well. She brought her tears, and each one of them was cried out of her thankfulness for forgiving the debt she knew she couldn't pay. These tears of gratitude, of thankfulness were offered at His feet and she used them to serve Him as she cleaned off His feet with her tears, and then used the hair on her head to clean them. **Sounds desperate huh?**

I mean, she doesn't care what people think. She's likely not even stopping to consider how to wipe his feet. She's just doing it. Her understanding of the distance between her and God, drew her to her desperation point, and that created a sense of vulnerability.

This is where this scripture really touches me, in that this woman is loving much, expressing her love much because of her understanding of the much that she has been forgiven of. And this is why this scripture has been so relevant to me since I have become a follower of Christ.

Church, I remember what my "many" sins were prior to coming to the Lord. I remember the way I treated others. I remember the darkness I was trapped in. I remember the dark room that I was in when I hit rock bottom. I remember what I did that was foul, that was nasty, that was kindly forgiven of the Lord. I remember the way I used to walk and try to get others to walk in. I know my "many" sins could have never been paid for by myself. Not only do I remember what I have been forgiven of in the past I know what the Lord is forgiving me of currently.

My pride. My worry. My selfishness. And the list goes on. And that forgiveness Jesus offers me has fueled my worship, fueled my praise, fueled my boldness for Him. And I know for a fact people look at me, or have looked at me the same way Simon looked at the immoral woman. People may likely look at you the same. But I don't allow, and won't allow the perceptions of others to dictate the worship I will give my Jesus. I won't think twice about falling to my knees in His presence. About singing loudly to Him even though I can't sing. About screaming out praise to my God in public places.

Because those who are forgiven much love much.

So let me ask you a question.....

SLIDE

What are your "many" sins that you have been forgiven of?

Let me suggest that if you don't think they are "many" that they are likely MORE than you think. Don't underestimate your sinfulness. The closer you get to Jesus, the more you should realize how much grace and forgiveness you needed then, and **still need now**. All of us who have come into a relationship with Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior have come to that through a moment of desperation.

Your moment may not have looked like mine, or your moment may not have looked like this immoral woman's but there had to have been some moment in your life where you realized you were in desperate need of Jesus to forgive you of your sins, because you realized you couldn't do it on your own.

Let me just say this, because I feel there are some people here tonight who are so long removed from that feeling of desperation that they desire to get it back. Maybe you are here and you remember a time when you relied on God for everything, a time when you relied on Jesus heavily out of your desperation. If you are anything like me maybe you can recount times where you clung to your Bible in your sleep, literally. I remember sleeping with my Bible at

times, don't judge me. But over time, I think the reason why we lose this feeling of desperation, is because we lose this reality of just how much we have been forgiven of. We start seeing the progress in our lives and get a little "over confident" in ourselves, and get to boasting about "how far we have come" that we forget how far we have to go. Sure, in your journey with Jesus you may have come a long way since you have come into a relationship with Him, and that's all by God's grace. Amen, hallelujah, praise the Lord. He's at work in our lives, and while we should be thankful about that, let's not think the bulk of the work of the Lord in your life happened in the past. So while you are looking back, don't boast in yourself and think you are "good" - and that you don't need Jesus as much now, as you did back then.

Instead, keep your eyes focused forward on Jesus, because you still have a lot that the Lord wants to do in and through you as the Holy Spirit continues to make you more like Jesus.

While we have all made progress in being Christlike, we will never attain Christlikeness here in this earth. Sure you are moving forward, but Jesus is in another galaxy and you've got a long ways to go, that you NEED Jesus' forgiveness to get you to, daily. **You don't need His grace any less now, than you did back then.**

Desperation isn't something you grow out of, but I think sometimes we feel that way. Or at least we function that way. But the gospel that saved you when you had a U-Haul's worth of sin, is the gospel that sustains you even if you now have a smart car full of sin. And keeping this reality in mind, will keep you reliant on His grace, in a constant state of desperation.

And from this desperation state of mind, and posture of our heart, flows adoration for the one Whom we are desperate for.....

This brings us to our last point.....

SLIDE

(3) ADORATION

Let's define adoration here for a second before we go any further. A quick google search of the word brings up this definition.

ad·o·ra·tion

/,adə'rāSH(ə)n/

noun

1. 1.
2. **deep love and respect.**
3. "he gave her a look of adoration"
4. sy 5. love, devotion, care, fondness;
no More
ny
ms:
4. 2.

5. worship; veneration.

6. "the Adoration of the Magi"

When you love someone, it's often said that you adore them. And in context to our relationship with God, we adore Him, or have a deep love, and respect for Him. We worship him.

And going back to this text, this is exactly what we see in the immoral woman. She heard Jesus was at the pharisee's home, she crashes the party, she sees the One who forgives kindly, our Lord Jesus, and she gets on her knees in adoration. This deep love, respect and worship she has for Jesus is shown in her behavior, because her desperation point drove her to such adoration. The immoral woman, understood the distance between her and God was great, so she was driven to desperation for Him.....and like I said earlier, desperation fuels adoration, we see that here with her.

How is her adoration expressed for Jesus?.....She starts giving Him all she has, expensive perfume, tears, emotion.....using all she had to express her gratitude toward Him. And as if this isn't desperate enough, she's kissing his feet. And not just one kiss, the scripture says she "kept kissing" his feet and putting perfume on them.

SLIDE

You really gotta love someone deeply to be kissing their feet. Real talk. Like one kiss on a foot is enough to show someone how much you love them, but continuously kissing a foot is truly expressing deep love, adoration.

Now I won't ask for a show of hands, but I'm willing to bet most of us in here have kissed a foot or two in our lifetime. And feet, uhhhhh, feet are just nasty. I don't know how you feel about feet but they are just nasty to me.

Like, it's a running joke in my family that I have some NASTY feet. I'm not embarrassed to admit it either. They've often been called hobbit-like. And I'm sure I'm not alone, I'm willing to bet everyone in this room doesn't have amazing looking perfectly pedicured feet.

Like, feet that constantly get kissed are babies feet because they are cute, and cuddly, they haven't been using them for 2-7 decades to get around on so if you have kissed a foot, other than your spouses (if you are married you can do that), it's likely been a babies foot as you are cuddling a newborn.

But me, I'm a grown man, and I'm 38 years old. I've been walking around on these dogs for going on four decades now. I don't make it a regular habit of cutting my nails either until I get holes in my socks so if I slightly brush my feet up against my wifes at night she's like "get those weapons away from me."

In a spirit of vulnerability here, and because I want to give you a visual of the ugliness of feet, here is what my nasty feet looked like at the age of 35.....

SLIDE

There's a funny story behind this picture. I was just posting a picture with my daughter on social media, and leave it to my brother in law Nate to call to attention the ugliness of my feet, and this lead to a slew of social media roasting of understandably so. These are ugly, my feet are near zombie like in this photo. And these are feet that are constantly protected by some sort of shoe, sandal, boot, dress shoe or etc.

So yeah, this picture here is kind of creepy. Nate was right. I actually sent him this picture as I was sermon prepping to freak him out a little, and it did just that. But back to my point. Feet are just gross.

But back in Jesus' day, he was rocking some sandals, likely made out of leather, with grass and strings of rope. He wasn't wearing Nike or Adidas slide sandals, he didn't have the nice Birkenstocks, and he wasn't rocking any comfortable running shoes. Guys back then wore sandals, and they walked everywhere. So by the time we find Jesus in this story in this scripture he was already about 3 decades into using his feet. In this picture I was a little more than 3 decades into using my feet and my feet haven't been exposed to the elements the same way as Jesus' feet were.

So let's just say, he likely didn't have perfectly pedicured feet. So laugh all you want at my feet, but while we don't know for sure or have any biblical text on this, I'm willing to bet Jesus didn't have silky smooth feet.....

I'm not saying this is what Jesus's feet looked like, but what I'm saying is my feet didn't have anywhere near the wear and tear Jesus' feet had on them. And we find this woman, this immoral woman. Down at His feet, crying, sobbing, pouring what is likely her most expensive possession, her perfume on His feet and **constantly** kissing His feet. Not just a quick peck, like (kissy noise), but "kept kissing" them.

She didn't do a foot check to make sure His feet were clean first. Matter of fact, it's safe to assume Jesus' feet were dirty when she started crying on them, pouring perfume on, wiping them off and kissing them because Jesus told Simon he didn't offer Him water to wash the dust off His feet. Yeah, all you germaphobes are freaked out right now, this was definitely not sanitary.

But here we see this desperate immoral woman, crashing the party, and showering Him with adoration in how she acts. Like I said before, if you have ever kissed a foot before, I am almost willing to bet it was of someone you love, and respect deeply. Someone you adore and cherish. Like a child, or your spouse. People that hold a special spot in your heart. And that's what we see here is her declaring out of her desperation, how much she loves her Savior. That she holds Him near and dear to her heart.

And this is where we need to find ourselves.....

SLIDE

Church, we need to find ourselves at the feet of Jesus constantly. At the feet of Jesus, vulnerable enough to express our love for Him in ways that might reveal our desperation for Him. There should never be a point where we stop pouring out our adoration on the One who kindly forgives. Just like this woman “kept kissing” - over and over again I’m seeing her in my mind, at His feet, constantly showing affection, we need to constantly be worshipping Him with our actions and to not care about what other people think.

Because you have been forgiven of SO MUCH!!!!!!! She was only at His feet because of her desperation and understanding that the distance to pay the debt for her sins was unreachable without God’s forgiveness. The God Man’s forgiveness, Jesus Christ. And the same way He says to her **“Your sins are forgiven”** in verse 48, He is saying that to us as well. The same way He tells her **“your faith has saved you; go in peace.”** He is telling us that as well.

We too, similarly to her, will throw caution to the wind when expressing adoration after we take a seat of desperation at the feet of Jesus.

So practically, what does this look like in our lives. What does it look like for us to “keep kissing the feet of Jesus.”

SLIDE

I would like to call the worship team up now as we ponder this question.....

I think for starters its means that you stay vulnerable. I assure you the immoral woman wasn’t thinking about what people “thought” of her when she acted in faith by crashing the party and then pouring her heart out at Jesus’ feet. We should do the same, act in faith, pour your heart out to Him. She didn’t allow the thoughts of others to stop her from expressing her adoration to Jesus. So here’s what we can learn from this. **Since God didn’t think twice about loving you, don’t think twice about loving Him.** Sure some people will think you are crazy, and from a distance you may very well look crazy but to the One who has forgiven your sins you look loved, cherished, and **beautifully desperate.**

So raise your hands in worship of Jesus, express emotion at His feet, come to the altar and thank Him repeatedly for the forgiveness that **traveled the distance.** After all, that’s the beauty of Christmas, that God sent His Son to travel the distance we could NEVER travel. That the distance that sin created, was traveled by the Son of God, Jesus Christ, to bring us into a relationship with Him. He knew you couldn’t travel the distance by yourself, and by your own effort. No sacrifice from a mortal human can pay for the sin debt that we all have. So Jesus, the perfect, sinless, spotless Lamb of God became our sacrifice. He took the punishment for our sins, He gave His life willingly and KINDLY to forgive you of your sins so that you can be in relationship with God. **There’s nothing you should feel the need to hide from the One who knows everything you are trying to hide, and forgives you even though you don’t deserve it.** Forgiveness is kindly given to you by Christ, you must accept it by faith. You must believe that Jesus lived a perfect life, never sinned, yet took the punishment for your sin, died on a cross and resurrected from the grave 3 days later to prove He is God and to free you from sin

defeating death. So that, that kindness, as Paul says in Romans 2, is what leads us to repentance. So repent, and place your faith in Christ if you have never done so. He loves us, He loves you!!!!

So as we go into worship, I want to encourage you to ask yourselves one thing. There's only one main action point for tonight, and that's for you and for me, to ask our Lord and Savior, have we gotten up from a posture of desperation? Have we got on our feet thinking we can do life alone, instead of continuously kissing the feet of the One who has forgiven us much?

SLIDE

Ask the Lord tonight, as we go into worship..... **Am I desperate for You?**

And if you have lost your desperation for God, ask Him to reveal to you why. Maybe it's because you got caught up comparin' sins by comparisons, maybe you started walking with Jesus by your own effort and not by the Spirit of God, **maybe you started thinking you "doing the right things" can be replace you sitting in the right posture at His feet.** I don't know what it is for you, but I know one thing. God's desire for us is to adore Him, and no one adores Him without understanding the distance between themselves and God. Without understanding they are a sinner in need of grace and no one adores Him without being desperate for Him and grateful for that forgiveness. **Church, we must understand the distance between us and God, because that distance creates desperation, which fuels our adoration.**

Ask Him to forgive you for losing your desperation if that's you tonight... And if you have never accepted by faith what Jesus did for you to bring you into a relationship with God, today is the day for you to turn from your sinful ways, and to place your faith in Jesus!

If you need people to stand in the gap with you, to carry the burdens on your heart with you, we have some people in the back and they would love to pray with you. Let's go into worship.

WORSHIP

I hope you felt encouraged today by the Word of God, now leave empowered, and freed to love Him and adore Him how He has created you to. Never forget the distance that God traveled for you, never forget your desperation for Jesus, and never forget to show your adoration by worshiping Him in Spirit and in Truth. God loves you, God is for you, and there's nothing that can separate you from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. So let me leave you with the last verse in this scripture as an encouragement.

SLIDE

The same words that Jesus said to the immoral woman, I believe He is saying them to us tonight, **"your faith has saved you; go in peace."**