

SINNERS MADE FRIENDS

(04/06/2025; Luke 7:24-50; Richie Pendred; Christ Proclamation Church)

Sermon Theme: Jesus teaches that greatness in the kingdom is given to the least, the lowly, and the humble. Those who are humble embrace God's plan of salvation in Jesus, while the self-righteous reject it. Therefore, all who recognize their sin and trust in Jesus become friends of Jesus by faith!

I. JESUS EXALTS THE LEAST – Read Luke 7:24-35

- A. What are the reasons that John the Baptist is greater than the prophets?
- B. What does it mean to be “least in the kingdom of God”? In what ways are “the least in the kingdom greater than John the Baptist?
- C. Read verses 29-30. What differences do you notice between the lowly and the self-righteous?
- D. How is it encouraging to know that Jesus exalts the least in the kingdom of God? In the midst of difficulty, stress, and busyness, how should this truth fill you with gratitude?

II. JESUS FORGIVES SINNERS – Read Luke 7:36-50

- A. Read verses 36-40. What descriptions are we given about the sinful woman?
- B. Read verses 41-46. How would you interpret this parable? What is the main point of the parable?
- C. What evidence from the text helps us understand the sinful woman's love is evidence of her forgiveness rather than the reason for her forgiveness?
- D. How does this passage inform us about the nature of Christ's forgiveness? What makes the statement: “Jesus makes sinners His friends” so staggering and glorious?

III. JESUS OFFERS FORGIVENESS – APPLICATION

- A. Read Romans 3:10-13. Why do we, as humans, need forgiveness and rescue?
- B. Would you say you're willing to admit your sinfulness, both to yourself and to the Lord? What gives you the ability to recognize the weight of your sin?
- C. How do you think you are doing regarding forgiveness towards others?
- D. Read Romans 12:1-2. How would you like to grow in presenting your body as a living sacrifice in worship to God?