

**Dr. Selwyn Q. Bachus**  
**A Reason To Rejoice**  
**Luke 7:36-50**  
**July 17, 2016**

All around the world trouble and tragedy seems to drown the joy we have as the people of God. Joy is a state of being and a choice. It is not determined by outside influences or stimuli. We have a right to choose to rejoice. With the help of God, no matter what goes on around us, with the Lord on our side, we should rejoice.

As a church we have much to rejoice about: people joining the church, people being baptized, Vacation Bible School, capital improvements, and A Work on a Wheel Fine Arts Camp are just a few reasons we should rejoice.

As we look at the text, there are three reasons why the people of God should rejoice.

**1. The Lord Has Made Room For Us.**

Jesus receives an invitation from Simon the Pharisee to have dinner at his home. Simon was a man of power and influence because of his status as a Pharisee. At the meal were honored guest of distinction who were granted the privilege to sit at the head table with Simon. Jesus was among those who sat at the head table. The meal was also open to those who did not receive an invitation or who was considered unimportant. Room was made for the least, the last, and the left behind. Even though we have not been invited to the table, as long as we can get in the room where Jesus is, everything will be all right.

**2. Our Past Does Not Deny Us A Relationship With The Lord**

A woman comes to the meal, sees Jesus, and begins to wash his feet with her tears. Simon sees what she is doing and says, *"This man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."* However, Jesus does not acknowledge the woman's past or her condition. Kissing a person's feet was a deep sign of reverence. Jesus makes no reference to the woman's sinful past, rather accepts her acts of kindness and gratitude. Jesus knew both the woman's public and private sins. Although Jesus knew who she was and all about her past, she was not rejected, but welcomed by Jesus. Jesus came to make up for our shortcomings and heal us of the sins of our past. In spite of our past, Jesus wants to be in relationship with us. If Jesus is not interested in our past, we should stop worrying about what people say about us. Tell them, "Your opinion is none of my business, so please keep it to yourself."

**3. Our Past Explains The Passion of Our Praise**

The woman was passionate about worshipping Jesus because of the path in life she had taken. We all have a path in life, and some of the experiences we have had along the way don't necessarily make us proud.

- a. We should worship Jesus passionately because we need somebody who can save us.
- b. Once we know we are going to be saved, we should not hold anything back when it comes to serving the Lord.