NOTHING TO PAY
Luke 7: 36-50

I. THE MUST OF FORGIVENESS
A. There are sins of the flesh and sins of the spirit.
   Simon was guilty of the sin of pride. He wrapped himself with the mantle of self-righteousness; satisfied with his own goodness, dignity, and importance. He looked down at her in order to exalt himself. Simon compared himself with this woman instead of with the Lord; the common mistake so many make.
B. There are sins of commission and sins of omission.
   Simon knew what the woman had done, but forgot what he himself had not done. He had not even shown Jesus the common courtesies of the home - the kiss of welcome, water for His feet, and oil for His head. It is so bad that this woman fell into sin, but it is even worse that Simon was living in sin and did not know it. The person who does not do what God requires is just as guilty as the person who does what God forbids.
C. There are open sins and hidden sins.
   Everyone at the feast knew who the woman was and what she had done with her life. Her sins were open. But only Jesus (who can read men's hearts) knew the sins in Simon's life.
   It is important to realize that we are sinners whether we feel guilty or not. That is the whole point of the parable of the two debtors (Luke 7:41-43). Both of the men were in debt and were bankrupt. The difference between 500 pence and 50 pence is not a difference in guilt, for if we disobey in only one of God's laws we are guilty. The two amounts represent a difference in their sense of guilt. The woman was not more lost than the Pharisee. She only felt her guilt and need for mercy far more than Simon did.

II. THE MIRACLE OF FORGIVENESS
A. Fact of the debt
   B. Freeness of the discharge - "He frankly forgave them both."
   The only person that can forgive a debt is he to whom the debt is due. God only can forgive sin, seeing it is a debt to him. He against whom I have transgressed is the only one that can pronounce my pardon; but if he forgives me, how effectual is the sentence! When the creditor said, "I freely forgive you both," the deed was done. His lips had power.
   When the Lord Jesus Christ is looked unto by the eye of faith, there comes a voice from his dear wounds which cries to the poor trembling bankrupt sinner, "Your sins, which are many, are all forgiven. I have blotted out your sins like a cloud, and like a thick cloud your iniquities." What an effectual pardon it is! He frankly, he fully, he freely, he effectually forgave them both.
1. Here is A Saviour That Favors Sinners
2. Here is a A Saviour That Forgives Sinners

III. THE MANIFESTATION OF FORGIVENESS
Forgiveness of sins always results in a changed life. The woman's faith in Christ granted her salvation, and that salvation gave her forgiveness of sin. The result was a changed life.

What are some of the new things that characterized her changed life?

A. New love
   An old Welsh proverb says, "In every pardon there is love."

B. New labor
   The woman was not forgiven because she loved or labored, but she loved and labored because she was forgiven.

Conclusion
I close with a story with a story from the life of the great British preacher, Brownlow North. He had lived a wicked life before he was saved. One evening as he entered a church where he was to preach, a stranger walked up to him in a hurried manner, and said, "Here is a letter for you of great importance, and you are requested to read before you preach tonight." Thinking that it might be a request for prayer, he immediately opened it, and found that it contained a detail of some of the things he had done in the past. The letter concluded with the words, "How dare you, being conscious of the truth of all above, pray and speak to the people this evening, when you are such a vile sinner."

He put the letter in his pocket and when it came time for him to preach; he pulled out the letter and told the people what it said. He said to the crowded congregation, "What is here said is true, and it is a correct picture of the degraded sinner that I once was; and oh how wonderful must the grace be that could quicken and raise me up from such a death in trespasses and sins, and make me what I appear before you tonight, a vessel of mercy, one who knows that all his past sins have been cleansed away through the atoning blood of the Lamb of God.

Charles Heston who was the leading actor in the movie Ben Hur was approached by the director, Andrew Marton, and told that he was going to race the chariot in the movie. Mr. Heston said that he did not know how to drive a chariot, and he was informed that he had better learn. The race took five weeks to film. Charlton Heston spent four weeks learning how to drive a chariot.

He was taught by the stunt crew, who offered to teach the entire cast, but Heston and one other were the only ones who took them up on the offer.

At the beginning of the chariot race, Heston shook the reins but nothing happened as the horses remained motionless. Finally someone way up on top of the sets yelled, "giddy-up!" and that galvanized the horses into action. Heston was flung backwards, off the chariot.

After practicing for three weeks, he finally told the director, "I think I can stay in the chariot, but I am not sure I can win the race."

The director told me, "You stay in the chariot, and I will see to it that you win the race."