**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, March 1, 2015 – *Second Sunday of Lent***

**Sermon Title: How He Loves: Who Loves More?**

**Scripture: Luke 7:36-50 *(New International Version)***

36When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. 37A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. 38As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. 39When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.” 40Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.” “Tell me, teacher,” he said. 41“Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?” 43Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.” “You have judged correctly,” Jesus said. 44Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. 46You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. 47Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.” 48Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” 49The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” 50Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only) – Based on Psalm 13**

Leader: How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

**People: How long must we wrestle with our thoughts and day after day have sorrow in our hearts?**

Leader: How long will my enemy triumph over me? Look on me and answer, LORD my God.

**People: But we trust in your unfailing love; our hearts rejoice in your salvation.**

**All: We will sing the LORD’s praise! God is good!**

**Basic Theme: *During this Lenten season, we explore the theme 'How He Loves.' We know the culmination is Jesus' sacrificial death for our sins, the ultimate sign of His love for us. However, Jesus' life teaches us what love looks like in action.***

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): Jesus’ radical teaching and great compassion attracted all sorts of people: from the devout and holy to the sinful and ashamed. Jesus story of two debtors explains why those who are far from God often express the deepest love and gratitude toward a God who shows mercy. God’s grace is abundant and covers all sin.**

**So What? Have you ever felt that you were so far away from God that your sins could not all be forgiven? Have you received the grace and forgiveness of God? Did it change your life? Did it change how you love others and live out your faith?**