

## How to Find Real Change in Your Life

---

Rich Nathan

October 13 and 14, 2001

Renewing Your Spiritual Passion Series

Luke 7:36-50

Because of our baptism tonight [today], I am going to simply plunge right into the scripture without a lengthy introduction.

*Luke 7:36-50: Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, and as she stood behind him at this 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.*

*When 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."*

*Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."*

*"Tell me, Teacher," he said.*

*"Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"*

*Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt canceled."*

*"You have judged correctly," Jesus said.*

*Then 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. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.*

*Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."*

*The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"*

*Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."*

Now this story is about a changed life. A woman who has a really miserable life has her life changed by Jesus. Changed lives, by the way, is about the only meaningful measure of a church. I mean, you don't really know anything about the effectiveness of a church by examining the building or considering the range of programming. If you are checking out a church to join, one of the questions that ought to be at the top of your list is, "Are people's lives changed for the better?" Are marriages changing? Are behaviors changing? Changed lives are the most relevant measure of a church's effectiveness. If you can just sit week after week and not get challenged to change, I think why bother? Stay home. Wash the car or weed the garden.

Let me ask you a simple question. Why don't more people like the woman in this story show up at church – this church or any other church in America? We have a couple hundred thousand churches. Why don't more people who are like this woman flood our churches?

I mean, the life of a prostitute is a horrible life. It is a terrible thing to be in the position of this woman, to be intimate with people you personally find repulsive, to have to shut your mind off every day to what people are doing to your body, to know that you are just an object to a man who just hired you, that in this man's eyes you are not a person, you have no more value than chopped meat in the grocery store. You are nothing except a half an hour of using and abusing.

Prostitution is a horrible existence. Do you know what the average age of entry into prostitution in America is? It is not 25, 20, or 18. The average age of entry into prostitution in America is 14 years old. 90% of all prostitutes in America are under the control of a pimp. Most prostitutes have been victims of childhood sexual abuse – incest, rape. In one study 75% of prostitutes were sexually and physically abused as children. Most prostitutes are beaten by their pimps. The vast majority have been raped by their customers. They are physically assaulted. They are treated as sub-human, as having no rights. 75% of the women who are in the so-called "escort" business have attempted suicide.

What do you get from prostitution except depersonalization and revulsion and maybe some cash which you split with a pimp or an escort service? What you get out is nothing short of death – dead feelings, a dead conscience, a dead-end future, drug addiction, disease, sometimes literal death. Usually prostitution is accompanied by drug addiction. Drug addiction is either the cause or the way that prostitutes cope with what they are doing.

In short, you don't need a lot of statistics to know that prostitution is not a great life. Not too many people say, "You know what my dream for my baby girl is? I want her to grow up to be a prostitute. I want her to be used and abused, addicted and alone."

So I ask the question again: With such an obviously miserable life, why don't more people like the woman in this story rush into churches all over America and say, "Help me. I want a better life. I don't want to die. I don't want to kill myself. I want to live. I don't want to spend another night with a man who is just using me. I don't want to just be a piece of meat. I don't want to be abused anymore. Help me. I want to stop the craziness in my life. I want to stop the insanity."

Think about this with me for a moment. Why don't gay men who are cruising bars looking for some fleeting connection with another human being; and all the people sitting in bars in America trying to meet someone; and everyone who stays up late at night madly typing away into their computers so that they can connect with some anonymous stranger in a chat room; and all of the divorced people and all the people contemplating divorce; and all the women with eating disorders; and all the men with pornography addictions – why don't all the lonely, desperate, empty people just run into churches across America and scream, "Help me. I am tired of trying to find love in all the wrong places. I am sick and tired of being sick and tired. I want to change."

Why are our churches not filled with ex-prostitutes, ex-drug addicts, ex-bar-hoppers and ex-cruisers, users and abusers, and people looking for freedom and hope and love, trying to find healing and trying to find forgiveness and change?

May I suggest two reasons why churches in America are not flooded with people like the woman in this story we just read? First, most folks - those who have blown it - anticipate meeting Simon the Pharisee at the front door of the church. Imagine what kind of courage it took for this woman to enter the home of a Pharisee, knowing what would be said about her. Here she is, approaching the house. She knows the house belongs to a religious person. She has been spit at on the streets by religious people. She has been shunned and yelled at. She has been called a whore, a slut and worse. She knows that when she goes into the house, she's going to be gossiped about. She is going to hear comments. She is going to see the sneers on people's faces. She is going to encounter rejection.

How many of you would willingly go to a meeting filled with people who don't welcome you and who don't want you there? I mean there aren't too many blacks or Jews who are going to go to a local neo-Nazi rally. There are not too many whites who are going to go to a Louis Farrakhan Black Muslim meeting.

Let me put this real simply. I think a lot of people who are in the place of the woman in this story believe that people like them - with their pasts and their behaviors, their tattoos, their body-piercing, because of their abortions, their sin - they believe that they would not be welcome in the church. That some Simon the Pharisee, or John or Mary Church-goer, will meet them at the door of the church

with the look that says, "What are you doing here? Look what the cat just dragged in."

Let me ask you an honest question today. If you had lived an obviously sinful life, if you were a big time partier or you were radically promiscuous, or you were having an affair, or you were an addict or a prostitute, or you danced in some strip bar, or you were gay or divorced or going through a divorce, if you had lived an obviously sinful life and you didn't know anything at all about a particular church, would you go to church without any fear at all?

If you were a real sinner, according to society's definition of sin, would you believe that you would be warmly received and find answers for your life? Why don't people like the woman in this story go to church? Why is the church not flooded with folks who are obviously unhappy, empty, sick and tired of being sick and tired?

Maybe because people who are broken, people who are sinners regularly meet Simon or Sally the Pharisee. Maybe because our workplaces and schools are filled with Simon or Sally the Pharisee and sinful people hear the Pharisees on the radio. They hear them yelling out on the Oval at OSU. And they hear from church-going Pharisees at work and in their families and in their neighborhoods. And they read the statements of Simon and Sally the Pharisee in the newspaper and through passed-on tracts. And they say, "Well, I don't have to be a rocket scientist to recognize that there is nothing for someone like me in the church. I guess I just don't fit in with those kinds of people."

Friend, when a sinner meets you - I mean someone who has really lived a hard life or is going through a really bad time - what do they find in you? How would they answer the question, "Have I met another Simon the Pharisee, a corrector of my behavior, a critic of the world, a judgmental parent, an elder brother who looks down his nose on a prodigal?"

Tell me honestly, who are you really when you are just you. Who are you in your comments about immoral people, in your responses concerning people who have messed up?

It took enormous courage for this woman to push through the rejection barriers and the fear barriers, to push through the scandal and to enter the Pharisee's house. Why did she do it? Why do people today, despite everything that they think about church, still enter the church?

I'll tell you why I think this sinful woman pushed her way into the house where Jesus was. I think it was because this was not her first meeting with Jesus. I imagine that this woman had met Jesus before. Perhaps on a street corner while she was plying her trade. There she was, her face painted with makeup, trying to look attractive even though she has bags under her eyes from too many nights

staying up late, too little sleep, too much alcohol. She is trying to look good on a street corner, attractive. She is wearing a bright silk scarf. Her dress is seductively arranged so you can see more than just her dress.

Here comes Jesus walking down the main street. The sinful woman smiles at him and bats her eyes, she smiles flirtatiously. Maybe she lifts her long skirt and shows her legs to him. She wants this man to look, to check out the goods.

Jesus looks. But when Jesus looks, his look is unlike the look of every man who had ever looked at her before. Every other man had eyed her body up and down. Every other man had checked her out, looked at all her curves, returned the seductive smile. But Jesus is the first man who ever looked at her and didn't check her out. Jesus was the first man whose eyes weren't filled with lust, but whose eyes instead were filled with love.

Those eyes – she can't get the eyes of Jesus out of her mind. That stare. I picture the prostitute turning away from those eyes. His eyes are so penetrating. She says to herself, "It felt for a moment like this man was looking into my soul. Like he knew me. Like he could see past my body into my heart and he saw my loneliness and my pain. And he saw all the abuse at the hands of hundreds of men. This man looked into my soul and he didn't turn away in revulsion."

And then Jesus spoke. But what he said was not a proposition. He didn't ask how much? He didn't tell her what he wanted. There was no come on, but there was no condemnation either that she was used to receiving from religious people in town. When Jesus spoke, the woman thinks, he spoke words of encouragement. The woman said, "He actually treated me as a person. No man has ever done this. I've always been treated like a side of meat. Jesus, this one man, treated me like a person. I felt actually worth something in his presence. Me, imagine that, me, a prostitute feeling for the first time in my life like I had some worth, that I wasn't just dirt. More than that, I'm afraid to say it to myself, much less out loud, but I felt loved, not lusted after. In fact, Jesus told me that our Father in heaven loved me. Imagine that, he called God OUR Father in heaven."

This prostitute met a man who was unlike any man she had ever met. Every other man was a user, an abuser, a liar. Every other man would say anything that needed to be said in order to get what they wanted. They would tell me, "Oh yeah, I love you and I want to have a future with you. I want to have children with you. Oh yeah, you're my girl. You're my baby. You're special to me."

But in Jesus she found someone who was telling the truth. That when Jesus said he loved her, he meant it. He was someone who would stand up for her. Someone who would protect her. Someone who would take away her sin and really forgive her.

Let me ask you a question, friends. Have you found that in Jesus? Have you found in Jesus someone who looks right into your soul, who knows everything about your past, everything that you've done and been into and yet still says to you, "I love you." Have you found in Jesus your protector, your supporter, your advocate, your greatest fan, your friend, your confidante, your lover?

See, becoming a Christian is not checking a box about what statements of faith you agree with. Do you agree with the following statement: Jesus died for our sins. Yes, check the box. Just check the box next to "He's raised from the dead. That he's the Savior of the world." Becoming a Christian is meeting Jesus himself, encountering the real person Jesus, finding in Jesus what you always hoped was out there, but could hardly let yourself believe was there. A person who completely loves you. A person who is completely on your side, completely for you and not against you. A person who does not constantly critique you or condemn you, but loves you into healing and wholeness and life change.

If you are a Christian already, friend, is this the Jesus you show to the world?

Listen to me now, if you are part of the church, if you are part of VCC, what do people expect to find here as a result of meeting you and knowing you are part of this church? When they meet you and you are representing this church, what do people expect to find here? Do they expect to find a church filled with Simon the Pharisees or do they expect to find a church filled with people who are like Jesus?

What do you look like out there in the marketplace? What do you look like in your families, in your conversations at work? In your conversations at school? What are you saying? What is coming out of your mouth?

It is the grace of God that this prostitute met Jesus before she met Simon. My prayer would be that there would be a similar kind of grace for someone who is sick and tired of being sick and tired. For the people who are broken, lonely, or divorced. That there would be a similar grace when they meet me or you before they meet the typical American church goer.

Now, having encountered this great love, this Jesus, the woman in the story was faced with a choice. She could have withdrawn and wallowed in her past, in her lostness. A lot of people do that. Just wallow in their lostness. She could have allowed the dark spirit to overcome her. That dark spirit that said to her over and over again, "You know you are no good. No matter what Jesus says, you are useless, worthless, unlovable, a nobody – your life is not worth living." She could have let the darkness envelop her and try another suicide attempt. This is too good to be true. Nobody could love me. I can't be fixed. I'm too broken. My life is too broken and too out of control. She could have chosen that path. A lot of people do make that choice.

But instead, she chose to believe that love, wholeness, healing – the love, the wholeness and the healing that she always wanted to find, that it really existed and could be found in Jesus. I picture her searching the town for Jesus. “That man who I was talking to, who is he? Who is the man who just came up to me?”

“Why do you want to know?”

“I need to know.”

“Get out of here, you slut, you whore.”

“Please, tell me.”

“Get out of here. Get out of our sight. You make us sick.”

She walks away and maybe overhears a comment, “Can you imagine someone like that wants to meet Jesus of Nazareth?”

So, that’s his name – Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus. She goes through the town talking with people. “Do you know where Jesus is? Do you know where Jesus of Nazareth is staying?”

Again, she overhears a conversation, “Hey, are you going to go to Simon the Pharisee’s house? Jesus of Nazareth is there.”

So she presses on and presses in.

Do you know that when you are presented with the love of Jesus you are always faced with a choice? You can reject it. You can run back into the darkness of your own inner voice that says, “You know, Jesus won’t work for me. Jesus maybe works for others, but he can’t work for me.”

I’ll tell you, this is a choice that you are faced with every day if you become a follower of Jesus. Will Christ work for you in what you are going through today? With your child? In your job? In your sickness? In your financial situation? Does Jesus love you enough to make a difference today? Don’t tell me what he did for you 40 years ago. Will you sink back into the arms of that dark spirit that says, “Forget it. This is all too good to be true.”

Today you are faced with a choice. You can reject the love that Jesus has for you and the fact that he’s for you, or you can receive it and allow him to love you into a changed life.

On Thursday I was working on this message at a coffee shop here in town when a woman walked up to me who I will call Elaine. She said, “Pastor Rich, I just

wanted to introduce myself and tell you how much the Vineyard has meant in my life."

I said, "Really? Tell me about it." This was one of those God moments. I'm sitting there writing about how God changes people's lives and meditating on the text of the sinful woman who is changed by Jesus and this woman from the church appears at my table and pours out her story.

Her story to me was powerful. It so moved me that I said to her, "Elaine, would you be willing to just write down your story real simply so I can share it with the congregation?"

Well, she did that on Friday and here is her story. She said,

I started coming to Vineyard Columbus in late 1996 or early 1997. I was casually invited by a friend I knew through a twelve-step recovery program I had attended for a few years. I came off and on for over a year. I was pregnant, not married and felt completely unworthy of a relationship with God. My past was littered with sin. Then I called these sins "issues" or "cycles of behavior". Now I know it was all sin.

To bring you to where I was coming from when I started to attend the Vineyard, I'll review my past. I was raised in an alcoholic home by my step father. My natural father committed suicide when I was very young, hence giving me the notion that he must not have wanted me. My stepfather was a practicing alcoholic for many years (now sober today) and did his best to provide us with the material things we needed. He was an Army man for years, and wasn't home a lot, so my mother was always angry and hurt. I believed from a young age that I must not belong anywhere. I found comfort in my grandmother, who had an on again-off again relationship with God. She took me to church a few times, but I was basically totally "unchurched".

I moved out of my house just after my eighteenth birthday to "find my way". This path included a lot of dating, living in my own apartment, drinking, etc. Upon starting one of my many "new" jobs at the time, (I had a lot of jobs), I met a man and we started to date. He was a recovering alcoholic, and had been sober two and a half years. Yes! I thought. A man who "looks like a partier, but is sober;" that hooked me!

He was the man of my dreams, rough and tough on the outside but sober forever, or so I thought. This was the beginning of a long term relationship and eventual marriage that plunged me into depression, single-parenting, abortion of a second child by him, a number of affairs by him, and basically insanity on my part, which eventually led to divorce-a long drawn out painful process.



You would think that I would have learned something from those years of pain, but I only acted more rebelliously. After going back to the bar scene again, dating, promiscuity, etc. I met my current husband in a bar, started dating, and three months later I was pregnant outside of marriage again. How could I do this? How could I be so stupid?

Could I survive another abortion? I was lost, broken, and to top it all off, inside I felt that "I don't even love the man that got me pregnant!" As if I knew what love meant!

That is when I came to Vineyard. After a year or so, and after delivering my little girl, I felt like it was time to "try God out." He had been tugging at my heart over the year, but I didn't follow, I was ridden with fear, but eventually I invited Christ in my heart to stay.

A couple of months later the father of my little girl, my "live-in" partner yet again, started attending Vineyard. He had given his life to the Lord not long after that. We had tried living together in the past, and at the time were living apart. We chose to go to counseling, and really give our lives to the Lord, and were married three months later at the church! We are still married today. Amazingly, we are happy, and he has adopted my son as his own. We are truly a family.

I now believe the Lord is revealing what true love really is, and that is what I have for my husband-the man I thought I would never love.

When you are coming from a place of brokenness like I am, there's always some story to tell, and I'm sure I could share many more, but I would like you to tell the people in the church specifically how the Lord has completely transformed me. I was angry at the world and didn't like people "touching" me when I came to Vineyard. Now, not only do I let others touch me, but I touch them back!

I had a very hard heart and was too caught up in my own pain to care when someone else was hurting. I would pretend to care, but didn't, couldn't. Now (although I'm not sure I like this part) I am such a softy, I cry at commercials. I am not as distant a mother as I used to be. My husband and I made a commitment for me to stay home to raise the children right now, and I love it! I am deeply committed to my husband, and respect him so much. I am no longer sexually broken, and that's changed my marriage completely.

And finally, as spiritually bankrupt as I was, and will add, still am in some areas, Jesus forgave me and "called me by name" anyway. That's the love and forgiveness of Jesus. I had nothing to offer him except my sin-ridden heart and body. He took it and transformed me into someone I actually like most days! All I have done is listen to Jesus and obey him, even when every fiber in my body is screaming "no", and he has blessed me in too many ways to count. I found in

God the father I've always wanted and I've discovered the power of the Lord's forgiveness.

Jesus changes people who want to be changed. Are you at a place in your life where you want to be changed? Where you need to be changed?

Let's get back to the text. It says in verse 37, *When a woman who lived a sinful life in town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume. As 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.*

I love this picture because having chosen to receive Jesus' love, having chosen to fight through the unbelief and feelings of unworthiness and the fear of rejection by others, you see a woman who is changing. And one of the marks of that change is that this woman's entire focus is upon Jesus. She is not talking to Jesus about her woundedness or what other people have done to her or all the creeps that she's met along the way, or all the abuse that she suffered or all the men who used her. Her attention is just on Jesus.

Don't get me wrong, there is a time to deal with woundedness. There is a time to acknowledge pain and victimization, but there is also a time to move on, a time to focus on Jesus.

You know, friend, a great test to see whether you are, in fact, changing, a real way to evidence to yourself regarding whether you have received Jesus into your heart is when you see yourself choosing to no longer be primarily dominated by what someone else has done to you. That the focus of your attention is no longer on the man who abandoned you and your kids, the woman who divorced you, the father or mother who were hurtful, your broken engagement, your ex-spouse. A great test regarding the extent of the change that has been worked in your life is that your focus and your mind are no longer on the hurt that was done to you, it's no longer on your victimization, it is no longer on your own sin; your focus is upon Jesus.

And flowing out of that, the other way you can know that you have really been changed by Christ, that you've really received forgiveness from Christ, is by looking at what you do with what you have. You notice a change of focus. You are no longer talking about your past so much – your hurt, your pain, your victimization, your sin. You are focused on Jesus and there is a change in what you do with what you have.

The woman used to devote her hair and her perfume to seduce other men. I imagine she used to take off the scarf which Jewish women would wear and let her hair hang loose, letting the scent of her perfume draw men to her. But now with the hair and perfume that she used to seduce men, she devotes those

things to Jesus. She pours the perfume on his feet. Wipes his feet with her hair. She has changed.

Are you changed? Have you been changed by Jesus, where you say “I used to devote my body to this, but not I devote my body to that.”

“I’ve spent all my life working at some job making money for my company. It’s time for me to spend my talents and my time on building the kingdom of God.”

“I used to devote my intelligence to scheme up ways that I could make more money.”

“I used to devote my intelligence to figuring out ways to meet a guy or to pick up women. But now that Jesus has changed me, I use my intelligence to scheme about how to reach people with the gospel.”

“I used to devote my money to fill my closet with more and more unnecessary clothes and shoes and sweaters. But now that I’ve met Jesus, I use my money to give to the poor, to world missions and to tithe to the church.”

“My house used to be a plaything for me to fill up my empty life and to fill my time with empty decorating and home repair projects.. But now my house is devoted to Jesus and I use it to host Bible studies and to host women’s groups. I use it for hospitality.”

“I used to use my free time – my evenings and weekends to golf, to work on my car. Anymore I find myself meeting with people, investing in another person’s life, trying to save someone’s marriage, trying to help someone in their relationship with Christ, trying to preserve someone else’s family.”

Friend, be honest. Do you see evidence of change? That there is a changed focus? That there is a changed devotion, that you devote your time, your money, your body to Christ and his church? Do you see change in your life? If you don’t, if you haven’t changed your focus yet, if you haven’t changed your devotion yet, you might not yet be a Christian. Or if you are, you are not living for Christ in a radical and passionate way.

How do you receive the change in your life – the change that you want, the love that Jesus has – how do you receive that?

First of all, you have to get honest. There is no change without honesty. This woman was publicly honest. She was weeping over her sins.

I want to show you a video clip from the movie, “Dead Man Walking.” It is a really powerful scene in which this man who, up until the very last half hour before his execution, had denied responsibility for his crimes. He’s been visited

by a Catholic nun, who is trying to assist him to die with dignity. And what it means in his case, the only way he is going to receive redemption and change, is by coming clean, by being honest. He has just a little time left in which to be honest about his crimes.

Here's the scene.

[Video clip shown]

Finally, finally, this murder and rapist comes clean. He gets real with God.

And we read in conclusion in verse 39, *When the Pharisee who invited him saw this he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who was touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."* Jesus answered him, *"Simon, I have something to tell you."*

There's a little bit of humor going on here, some irony in verses 39-40. Simon is wrong on two counts regarding Jesus. He is wrong in his premise, and he's wrong in his conclusion. He doubts whether Jesus is a prophet. Well, Jesus is a prophet. Indeed, he's more than a prophet and he proves that he is a prophet by reading Simon's thoughts. Simon's premise is wrong. Jesus is a prophet.

Simon's conclusion is also wrong. The kind of prophet that Jesus is is different than the kind of prophet that Simon expects. Simon expects a prophet who, knowing sin, will condemn it and reject the sinner. Jesus knows the woman's sin, but he sees her and knows her in order to love her out of her sin, not to condemn her.

Listen friends, there are lots of parents, lots of priests, lots of Sunday School teachers, who have used God's knowledge to scare children into obedience. "Johnny, I want you to know that God sees everything you ever do. He can see right through the closed shades in your bedroom. He can see you in the dark. He can see you when you walk alone in the woods, so watch it."

Jesus knows us totally, just as he knew this woman completely. Jesus sees you totally, but his knowing and his seeing are not loaded with condemnation. He knows and he sees in order to love you out of your sin. So Simon is wrong on two counts. He is wrong about what Jesus knows and he's wrong about what Jesus does with what he knows.

So friends, here's the deal. Today it doesn't matter if you are a big sinner like Elaine - a partier, promiscuous, coming off divorce, in the middle of some crisis – or a little sinner like Simon the Pharisee, whose sin has to do with cold-heartedness and criticalness and gossip and judgment. We need to be changed by Jesus. The fact is, Christ loves both kinds of sinners. Your sin may be called the Simon the Pharisee type; your sin may be of the sinful woman type. It may

be respectable or unrespectable. Jesus loves both kinds of sinners and he wants to love you into change.

I said earlier in the talk that it always takes great courage to come to Jesus. It takes great courage to really come and say, "It's time for me to change." If you are at a place in your life where you need to be changed by Jesus, I want you to publicly stand. Amen.

## **How to Find Real Change in Your Life**

---

Rich Nathan

October 13 and 14, 2001

Renewing Your Spiritual Passion Series

Luke 7:36-50

### **I. Why Don't People Who Need Real Change Come to Church?**

A. Meeting Simon the Pharisee

B. Meeting Jesus the Savior

### **II. What Does Real Change Look Like?**

A. A Choice to Receive

B. A Choice to Focus

C. A Choice of Devotion

### **III. How is Real Change Obtained?**

A. Radical Honesty

B. Courage