

Come to the Well

20/20 Faithful Vision
Shandon United Methodist Church

January 17 – 19, 2020
Ridgecrest Conference Center,
Ridgecrest, North Carolina

Retreat Author & Facilitator

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SESSION I - WELCOME HOME!

- **Congratulations!**

- You made it! You carved out time in your busy schedule to **SHOW UP** at this sacred space and in this sacred time:
 - For an encounter with our Father
 - To see Him more clearly!
 - To love Him more dearly!
 - To know that He sees you!
 - To walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 4:16 – 18, 5:6 – 7)
- You've done the hardest part – **YOU SHOWED UP!!**

SESSION I - OUR TIME TOGETHER

- **Session I – Friday Evening**

- The God Who Sees Me - ELROI
- Meeting Hagar in Genesis 16:1 – 16; 21:8 - 21



- **Session II – Saturday Morning**

- The God Who Sees the Best in Me
- Meeting the Woman at the Well in John 4:4 – 26

- **Session III – Saturday Afternoon**

- Seeing God Through the Distractions – “Can You See Me Now?”
- Meeting Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38 – 42

SESSION I - OUR TIME TOGETHER

- **Session IV – Saturday Evening**

- I See God in You
 - Meeting Mary and Elizabeth in Luke 1:39 – 45

- **Session V – Sunday Morning**

- I Can See Clearly Now (Responding in Faith")
 - Matthew 3:13 – 17 | Meeting the Woman with the Alabaster Box in Luke 7:37 – 50

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- **Committed** – I am committed to showing up without distractions in our times of sharing so that I can experience and show God's Grace.
- **Confidential** – Whatever is shared during our retreat will remain confidential. While I will take what I learn with me, I will endeavor to maintain the sacred safety of our group.

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SESSION I - OUR COVENANT

- **Caring** – Because I love my Sisters, my Brothers and myself, I will show respect for opinions shared.
- **Contribute** – Everyone matters on this journey! To hear from the Lord concerning our time together – everyone's voice is important. As such, I will: contribute to the discussion as the Spirit leads and complete my 'homework' assignments.
- **Christ-CENTERED** – Jesus is the reason we are here. He has invited us to SHOW UP so He can reveal His thoughts, His love, and His Grace to us. Jesus is at the beginning of our thoughts, at the center of our conversations and at the expected end of our journey together.

SESSION I - ELROI

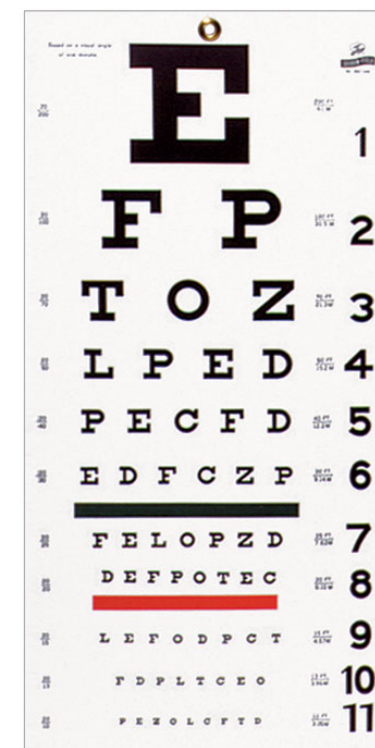
- **CONFESSION TIME!**

- **I have a confession to make!**

- **I don't like going to the OPTOMETRIST**
 - "THE EYE DOCTOR"
 - TOO MUCH PRESSURE
 - My GOAL – GET IN AND GET OUT OF THERE!

- **Ma'am, your vision has changed!**

- At 50 things change...
- Undeniable...
 - Need more light to see
 - Need 'CHEATERS'
 - Need help from younger eyes!



SESSION I - ELROI

- **OUR SPIRITUAL EYESIGHT...**

- **Over time, our SPIRITUAL EYESIGHT SHIFTS...**

- **We start off...**

- Walking by faith and not by sight...
- Believing the Word of God
- Spending time with the Lord

- **Distractions**

- Disappointment
- Doubts
- Delays
- Disaster



SESSION I - ELROI

- **We begin to lose heart (2 Corinthians 4:16)**

- What we see looks permanent
- What we see looks insurmountable
- **Before we know it, our vision Shifts**
 - From God's promises
 - To our abilities or INABILITIES
 - From God's presence
 - To what we can see
- **Without an adjustment**
 - We can miss God in the wilderness
 - We can miss God in the mundane
 - We can miss God in the chaos



SESSION I - ELROI

- **OUR SPIRITUAL EYESIGHT...**

- **The Apostle Paul offered a prescription for the Corinthians and for us (2 Corinthians 4:16 – 18; 5:6 – 7):**
 - Don't lose heart!
 - **It's not what it looks like!**
 - Don't look at what's seen – it's only temporary
 - Look to what is unseen – that's eternal!
 - Walk by faith and not by sight!



SESSION I - ELROI

- **How to walk by faith...**

- **Lessons from the Birdbox**

- Apocalyptic depiction of the world
- Beings had taken over the earth
- If you looked or listened to them – you perished
- **To survive**
 - People had to learn to trust their instincts
 - To navigate blindfolded
 - To recognize the trustworthy voice



SESSION I - ELROI

- **To walk by faith**
 - We must learn to trust the leading of the Holy Spirit
 - To navigate the maze of life by following Jesus' VOICE
 - The voice of the Good Shepherd
 - "Come Follow Me!"
 - To remember that **God SEES US!**

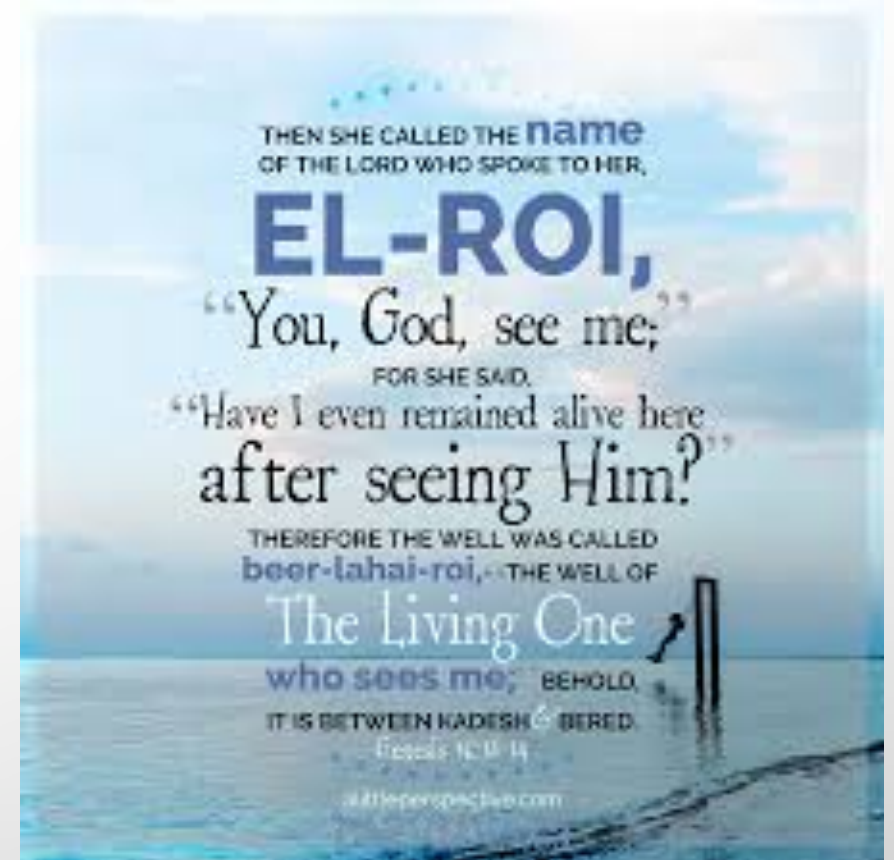


SESSION I - ELROI

Genesis 16:1 – 16; 21:8 – 21

Excerpt: Genesis 16:13 - 14

13 So Hagar gave this name to the LORD who had spoken to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "Here I have seen the One who sees me!" 14 Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roie. It is located between Kadesh and Bered. 15 And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne. 16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to him.



SESSION I - ELROI

- **Meet Hagar**
 - **An Egyptian Maidservant**
 - Away from her home and her people
 - Powerless
 - **A 'slave girl' to Abraham and Sarah**
 - A daughter to God
 - **A means to an end to Abraham and Sarah**
 - A visionary to God



SESSION I - ELROI

- **Lessons from Hagar**

- God is Omniscient (Psalm 139:23 - 24)
 - Search me and know my heart...
- God calls us by name (Isaiah 43:1)
 - The One Who created Israel...calls us by name.
- God desires to give us hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11)
 - He has a plan!
- God loves us with an unfailing love (Jeremiah 31:3)
 - I have loved you with an everlasting love!
- God allows us to see Him, to name Him, to trust Him (Proverbs 3:5 – 6)
 - Trust in the Lord!



SESSION I - ELROI

- **Homework: Read and meditate on the Word**
 - God is Omniscient – He sees Us! (Psalm 139:23 - 24)
 - God calls us by name (Isaiah 43:1)
 - God desires to give us hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11)
 - God loves us with an unfailing love (Jeremiah 31:3)
 - God allows us to see Him, to name Him, to trust Him (Proverbs 3:5 – 6)



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SESSION I - ELROI

- **Let us pray...**

Leader: God of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar, thank you for seeing us even in our disobedience, despair, and denial of your presence.

Sisters: You are El – Roi, the God who sees us, the God who created us, the God who has prepared a future with hope for us.

Leader: Thank you, for giving us the gift of faith. Faith to endure, faith to fall down and to get back up, faith to follow Your voice through the darkest valleys and the most joyous times of our lives.

Sisters: Now Lord, we desire to see You more clearly, to love you more dearly, and to trust your voice as we have never trusted you before.

All: This is our prayer that we make in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Amen!

SESSION II - GOD SEES THE BEST IN ME

- **Session I – Friday Evening**

- The God Who Sees Me - ELROI
 - Meeting Hagar in Genesis 16:1 – 16; 21:8 - 21

- **Session II – Saturday Morning**

- The God Who Sees the Best in Me
 - Meeting the Woman at the Well in John 4:4 – 26



- **Session III – Saturday Afternoon**

- Seeing God Through the Distractions – “Can You See Me Now?”
 - Meeting Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38 – 42

SESSION II - GOD SEES THE BEST IN ME

- **Session IV – Saturday Evening**

- I See God in You
 - Meeting Mary and Elizabeth in Luke 1:39 – 45

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SESSION II - GOD SEES THE BEST IN ME

- **My Testimony...**

- I had big dreams!
 - Big Goals
 - Married
 - 2.5 children by 35
 - Successful career
 - Happy Home
 - Proud parents
 - Preaching on the side!
 - Broken Dreams
 - Broken Heart – Shattered Dreams



SESSION II - GOD SEES THE BEST IN ME

- **God Used the Broken Pieces**
 - **To bring Romans 8:28 to life for me!**
 - For we know that all things work together for the good
 - **To bring Philippians 4:13 to life for me!**
 - I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me!



SESSION II - GOD SEES THE BEST IN ME

- **God Used the Broken Pieces**
 - **To bring Psalm 34:18 to life for me!**
 - The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and brings life to those who are crushed in spirit.
 - **To bring Psalm 139:14 to life for me!**
 - I am fearfully and wonderfully made!



SESSION II - GOD SEES THE BEST IN ME



- **When I couldn't see it – God saw the best in me!**
 - He put the pieces back together!
 - He gave me a ministry in place of my misery!
 - He gave me a message in the midst of my mess!
 - He saw my mission when all I could see was my mistakes!

SESSION II - GOD SEES THE BEST IN ME

John 4:4 – 26 | Excerpt: John 4:4 – 10

Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman

4 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John— 2 although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. 3 So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. 4 Now he had to go through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. 7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans. 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."



SESSION II - GOD SEES THE BEST IN ME

- **The Woman at the Well**
 - A Samaritan Woman
 - Married 5 Times
 - Alone | Unseen | Forgotten?
 - A Woman of Faith
 - A Courageous Woman!



SESSION II - GOD SEES THE BEST IN ME

- **Lessons from the Woman at the Well**
 - **Our brokenness doesn't disqualify us**
 - **Our brokenness is our blessing**
 - **2 Corinthians 12:8 – 10**
 - For My Grace is sufficient for you
 - For My Strength is made perfect in your weakness
 - **From our brokenness God gives us a mission and a ministry**
 - **Isaiah 61:3**
 - God will give us a crown of beauty for ashes
 - The oil of joy for mourning



SESSION II - GOD SEES THE BEST IN ME

- **Homework – Meditate on these questions and Scriptures**
 - **How have you been broken?**
 - **How has God shown His grace through your brokenness?**
 - Consider - 2 Corinthians 12:8 – 10
 - **Is God calling you to minister from your broken places?**
 - Consider - Isaiah 61:3



SESSION II - GOD SEES THE BEST IN ME

- **Let us pray...**

Lord, through it all, You continue to see the best in me!

My failures don't deter You.

My sin doesn't frighten You.

My heart is Your focus!

And for this I am thankful!

Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me Lord.

I want to see what You see in me.

Give me a drink of that living water that I may run and tell others about You!

Amen!

SESSION III - "CAN YOU SEE ME NOW?"

- **Session I – Friday Evening**

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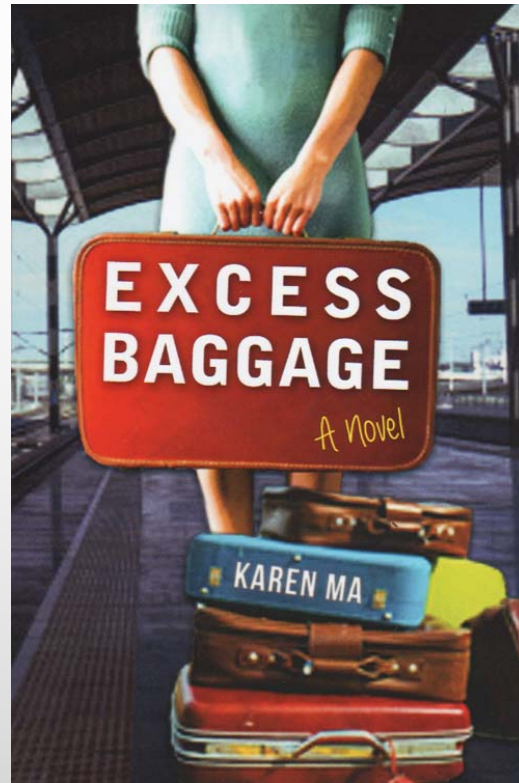
- **Session V – Sunday Morning**

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SESSION III - "CAN YOU SEE ME NOW?"

- **What BAGGAGE do we carry that keeps us from focusing on Jesus**

- Unforgiveness
- Busy-ness
- Muchness
- Many-ness
- Loneliness
- ?



In your Journal
– write some of your baggage that captures your focus and distracts you from the promises of God?

SESSION III - "CAN YOU SEE ME NOW?"

- **Our Scripture Focus: Luke 10:38-42 New International Version (NIV)**

At the Home of Martha and Mary

38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. **39** She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. **40** But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" **41** "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, **42** but few things are needed—or indeed only one.[a] Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Footnotes:

[Luke 10:42](#) Some manuscripts *but only one thing is needed*

Source: www.biblegateway.com

SESSION II - RENEWED FOCUS

- **The Inward Life Concealed vs. the Outward Life Revealed**

- **Meet Martha**

- **Outwardly**

- Looked like she was focused
 - She was certainly busy
 - She was hospitable – right?

- **Inwardly**

- Hurried, anxious, bitter
 - Distracted
 - Weighed down with baggage!
 - Out of the abundance of her heart – her mouth spoke! **Luke 6:45**



SESSION III - "CAN YOU SEE ME NOW?"

- **The Inward Life Concealed vs. the Outward Life Revealed**
- **Meet Mary**
 - **Outwardly**
 - Submitted
 - Simple devotion
 - An act of service
 - **Inwardly**
 - Meditative
 - Prayerful
 - Abiding



SESSION III - "CAN YOU SEE ME NOW?"

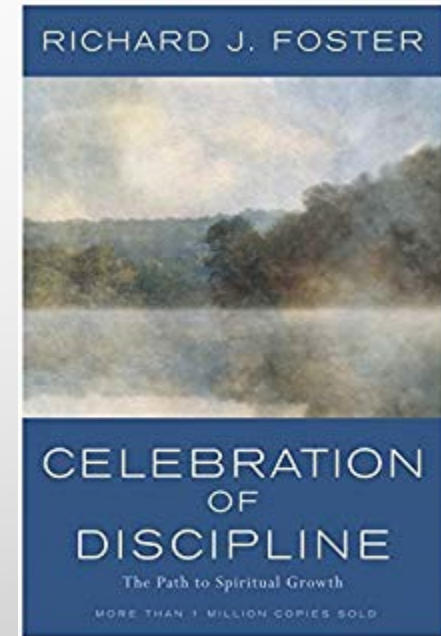
- **We RENEW our FOCUS through Spiritual Disciplines**

- **Inward Disciplines**

- Meditation
- Prayer
- Fasting
- Study

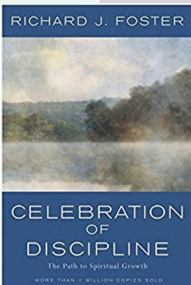
- **Outward Disciplines**

- Simplicity
- Solitude
- Submission
- Service



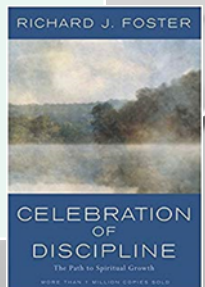
SESSION III - "CAN YOU SEE ME NOW?"

Ref.	Discipline	Inward Disciplines - Defined	Biblical Reference
1	Meditation	Christian meditation, very simply, is the ability to hear God's voice and to obey His word. " (17) Unlike Eastern meditation which seeks detachment, the goal of Christian meditation is a closer walk with the Lord. (17 – 20)	Exodus 3:1 - 7
2	Prayer	Prayer is listening ...it is something that we learn...it is an expression of our dependence upon God." (38 – 40) Our prayers are both personal and corporate, they are both simple and at times complex.	1 Samuel 1:9 – 28
3	Fasting	Fasting reminds us that we are sustained "by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Food does not sustain us; God sustains us. In Christ." (55)	Esther 4:15 – 17
4	Study	Study is a specific kind of experience in which through careful attention to reality the mind is enabled to move in a certain direction...the direction of the Truth of Jesus Christ which sets us free." Study involves repetition, concentration, comprehension, and reflection. (61- 66)	2 Timothy 2:14 - 19



SESSION III - "CAN YOU SEE ME NOW?"

Ref.	Discipline	Outward Disciplines - Defined	Biblical Reference
5	Simplicity	A life of simplicity requires our acknowledgement of our addiction to consumption (things, thoughts, accomplishments), and our desire to open this addiction up to the healing grace of God. (91)	Matthew 6:33
6	Solitude	In solitude God draws us away from our distractions so that we can see him more clearly and love Him more dearly. Unless we can SHOW UP in silence and solitude with God, we will never be able to FOCUS for others. (103)	Luke 5:1 - 16
7	Submission	Remembering that "the purpose of Disciplines is freedom" (110) the purpose of submission is simply to LET GO and to LET GOD! In so doing, we are able to forgive without condition and to love without restraint.	Matthew 23:8 – 10, Philippians 2:8
8	Service	Nothing disciplines the inordinate desires of the flesh like service, and nothing transforms the desires of the flesh like serving in hiddenness." (130) Unlike self-righteous service, the objective of true service is not the act of serving – but the joy of becoming a servant of God!	John 13:1 - 17



SESSION III - "CAN YOU SEE ME NOW?"

- **Homework –**

- What are the distractions that keep me from truly worshipping the Lord?
- Which of the Spiritual Disciplines can I begin to refocus my attention on God?



SESSION III - "CAN YOU SEE ME NOW?"

- **Let us pray...**

Lord, forgive me for my busy-ness, my much-ness, and even for my unforgiveness. Help me to remember that You desire first place in my life.

Help me to see You in the midst of the chaos in my life.

Help me to see You in others.

Help me to see You in myself.

Lord, renew my desire for more of You.

Like Mary, I need YOU to survive.

Amen

SESSION IV - "I SEE GOD IN YOU"

- **Session I – Friday Evening**

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SESSION IV - “I SEE GOD IN YOU”

- **Luke 1:39-45 New International Version (NIV)**
- **Mary Visits Elizabeth**
- 39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”



SESSION IV - “I SEE GOD IN YOU”

- **It's Your Turn**
 - With renewed vision
 - With a better understanding of what God sees in us
- **Turn to your Sister and tell her 1 thing, attribute, blessing about her that BRINGS YOU JOY!**

SESSION IV - “I SEE GOD IN YOU”

- **Homework –**

- Write a prayer of thanksgiving to God and be prepared to place it in the prayer box during closing worship. Please don't sign your prayer or use full names.



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SESSION V - "I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW!"



Our Scripture Focus: Luke 7: 40 – 50 NIV

40 Jesus 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. **42** Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" **43** Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. **44** 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. **45** You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. **46** You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. **47** Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." **48** Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." **49** The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" **50** Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

SESSION V - "I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW!"

- **By our Baptism - We are the Beloved of God!**
- **SCRIPTURE FOCUS: The Baptism of Jesus - Matthew 3:13 - 17**
13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John.
14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."





-EL ROI-
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WHO
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GENESIS 16

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