



## *Illusions :: Part 1* *Out of the Shadows* {Jeff Henderson}

### INTRODUCTION

To some extent, all of us spend our lives projecting an image that is contrary to who we really are on the inside. We hide behind illusions of what we want people to see about us. It's often easier to lie about your marriage, your career, your finance, or your relationship with God than to deal with the messy reality of life. But living in the shadows can prevent us from experiencing the life-changing truth that Jesus came for the real you, not the fake you.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What areas of your life would you prefer to leave in the shadows?
2. Why is it easier to hide parts of our life behind illusions instead of dealing with the messy truth about us? What benefits are there to maintaining illusions? What damages are there to maintaining illusions?
3. Read Luke 7:36-38. What are some possible reasons that this woman is drawn to Jesus?
4. Who in your life allows you to be who you really are without having to leave any parts behind in the shadows? What does it mean to you that Jesus came for the real you, not the fake you?
5. Why is denial or guilt an easy option when choosing to dealing with your brokenness and mess? When have you chosen to respond this way?
6. What is keeping you from stepping out of the shadows and into the light?

### MOVING FORWARD

Jesus came for the real you, not the fake you. God won't be surprised or shocked with the parts of your life that you've been trying to keeping in the shadows. So what are the issues that God wants to deal with in your life?

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*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 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.*

Luke 7:37-38