

John 8

Cast the First Stone

Welcome back and here we go! Thank you all for continuing with me, with us, as we journey through the book of John and so much more! I think our spiritual growth is tied directly to our desire to grow. Many people learn to a certain point, then live off of that from that point on. They stop learning and start telling everyone what they know. They may not even read their bible anymore, except when in a service or a study, as well as emphasizing their own knowledge. So, if you are here, hopefully it is to learn and grow!

The Pharisees were just such people. They didn't come to learn about their own sin. They came to catch Jesus and to show how much they knew!

John 8:1-12

- 1) Why didn't anyone condemn her?

It is interesting because they brought her there, prejudged; and by law she, actually she and whomever she had been with, should be stoned. As we talked about last week: LAW vs GRACE.

Another interesting point to me is the accusers disappeared. Why? It seems they always stuck around to antagonize Jesus! Perhaps, faced with their own sin.....

It is so easy for us to judge other's sin! Especially, since theirs are so much worse than mine!

- 2) Why didn't Jesus agree with the LAW and have her stoned?

It's obvious, they were again trying to trip us Jesus.

Between Jewish law and Roman law, Roman law said it was illegal for Jews to hand down a death sentence. Hence, they needed Pilot later to condemn Jesus. So here, again another trap.

But it goes beyond law of Jesus. The law isn't Jesus' way --- it's GRACE. The New Covenant that we talk about so often. Remember, the truth will set you free.

Do you feel like people should get what they deserve? Maybe you should get what you deserve.

Be careful when you are choosing your stones.

John 8:12-59

- 3) Why does Jesus say "I am the light of the world"? (vs 12)

Obviously, we have all the internal knowledge, knowing. Remember *John 1:1-10*. Remember this is the Harvest Festival. One aspect of the Festival was to light four great candlesticks to symbolize the pillar of fire by which God guided the Israelites through the desert by night.

Jesus is saying He lights the way for us to navigate this desert of a life. We are sojourners, travelers, passing through. How do we leave a mark on our families, communities, friends, co-workers? We stay in the light.

John 8:31-36

4) What does it mean the “truth shall set you free”?

Does it make you free from sin? Does it make you free to do as you choose? Jesus in essence is teaching them: freedom from the penalty of law, from the penalty of their --- your sin. You are also free from a life of working to please God. God is already pleased with you. You belong to Him. You are free indeed! A slave does not abide in the house....

5) How did the truth set the adulterous woman free? How has the truth set you free?

If all these things we are saying about ourselves are true, and if the truth is universal, then these things are also true for the ones you would stone. Turn your freedom into GRACE. Choose life. Life can have boundaries, but it cannot be loveless.

It then becomes cold love.

John 8:54-58

No more questions... just a reminder:

Jesus is God! God dwells in you. You have a destination. It is in heaven with Jesus!

Let's pray.

Friday's message: "He Cares for You."