

To Forgive and to Love

John 8:1-11

Life Group Discussion – October 14th, 2018

In this passage, we see the supernatural wisdom of Jesus. A woman who was caught in the midst of adultery is dragged in front of Jesus. The law says that she must be stoned, but Jesus says for the one without sin to cast the first stone.

The people who dragged her out to Jesus had plotted a conspiracy; a test to trap Jesus.

The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” (John 8:3-5)

There was a law in place that said a woman must be stoned in circumstances like this. Why would there be this type of law in the first place?

The law is made so that people can live.

Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?” But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him on his way. Then he asked them, “If one of you has a child or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull it out?” And they had nothing to say. (Luke 14:3-6)

But the people took hold of the law and used it to kill instead of to give life. The law became twisted under the Jewish people and the law that was supposed to help others produced death.

For many of us, we can say that we trust in Jesus and talk about all the blessings that God has done for us and our family. But none of that matters if we do not recognize our own sin and the reason why we need to be saved by the cross.

When we do not remember what Jesus has done for us, we start to become like the teachers who brought out the woman to Jesus. It becomes easier for us to judge others harshly while ignoring the sin in our own lives. But we need to rely on Jesus’ power alone instead of our own discretion. If we

rely on our own strength to make decisions then we will begin to use the law to hurt others instead of help others.

Our church has a dream. That dream is to save lost souls through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. People who were going in the wrong direction, those that were addicted to drugs, gambling, and so many other things have changed their lives through the Gospel. This is the purpose of our church and the reason why we can serve and give.

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. (John 19:10)

God sees the same sin in all of us.

They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. (John 8:6)

When Jesus tells the people that the person without sin can throw the first stone, He is saying that we have all fallen short of the law. No one is perfect and the worst sinner to the most generous person is still a person with sin. That is why we cannot judge one another, we have all sinned.

You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. (Matthew 7:5)

There is no need for us to compare ourselves with one another, we are all sinners and we have nothing to stand above one another. As Christians, our goal is to simply be thankful in all circumstances and to serve one another out of love and gratitude.

The God of Forgiveness

Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” (John 8:10)

One of the ways Satan attacks us is to fill us with guilt. Because we have sinned, those sins haunt our

thoughts and our memories. The most difficult thing, the thing that keeps us up at night, is our guilt. Satan uses this as one of his greatest weapons.

“No one, sir,” she said. (John 8:11)

The woman looks up and realizes she is alone with Jesus. Jesus looks at her and says that He does not condemn her either. He forgives her sin.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1-2)

Jesus knew that the woman had committed a terrible sin. He knew that she would still sin in the future. And yet even knowing all of this, He forgives her and loves her.

Because God forgives us, we can live a life of forgiveness toward others and ourselves. God forgives us and loves us, and He asks that our response be the same to those around us.

Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. (Romans 12:19)

When we forgive, we must also forget. God says that when we repent of our sins, that He forgives us and no longer remembers those things. If we keep thinking that God remembers the sins we asked Him to forgive us for, that is the Devil speaking to

us. Pray in the name of Jesus that those thoughts would leave your mind and your heart. Trust in what the Bible says.

God is love.

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:7-8)

It is because of God’s character and who He is that he sent His son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins. Trust in what God has done for you, and look upon yourself and others with a heart of thankfulness and humility. Jesus has forgiven you, be at peace.

SHARING-----

1. The law was given to us so that we could live. When was a time you have seen God’s word truly save someone’s life?
2. Our church has a dream, and it is the same dream that God has. We desire to save the lost souls through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Is this your dream? What can I do in order to make my dream more like God’s dream?
3. God commands us to forgive and to love. Who is someone you feel like God is calling you to forgive and love? Take some time to share.