

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Nov 2015

John: Jesus is the Christ

Lesson #9: Casting Stones (Or Not. . .)

INTRODUCTION

Describe a time in your life when you got caught red-handed doing something that you knew was wrong.

OBSERVATION

Read John 8:1-11

Note: Capital punishment was the providence of the Romans. The Romans did not have a problem with adultery like the Jews. Stoning for adultery was probably not used much at this time. A Jewish divorce was easy to obtain. A common practice of Roman judges was to write their sentence and then to state them. According to the Torah (Deut 7:17) the actual witnesses were supposed to cast the first stone. In a society where age and seniority were honored, the departure of the most revered first quickly took away the confidence and authority of the accusing group.

1. What is the situation we find Jesus in? Is He calm, excited, scared, bored, etc.?
2. Why were the “people” coming to Him?
3. What was the primary purpose of the “teachers of the law and the Pharisees” coming to Him?
4. What problem would Jesus face in letting the woman go? Lev 20:10; Deut 22:22-24
5. What problem would Jesus face in allowing her to be stoned? John 18:28-31
6. How does He spring the trap in verse 7? Matthew 5:27-28, 7:1-2
7. What was the significance of Jesus’ question in verse 10? How would the woman just caught in adultery have felt?
8. How does Jesus’ response to the woman exemplify “grace and truth”? John 1:17 What is the problem with emphasizing one more than the other?
9. Since no one is sinless (except Jesus) when is it appropriate to judge? Jn 9:41; 16:8-9
10. What perspective might each of the major “players” have had?
Adulteress? Her partner? Jesus? Pharisees? Disciples? Crowd?

APPLICATION

- How does the way Jesus treated this woman help you face your own sins? Does Jesus’ unconditional acceptance free you to change, or does it support your bad behavior? Explain.
- What do you need to change in terms of your relating to others – family members or acquaintances – who have fallen into sin? How do you show “grace”? “Truth”?

“Judge not, that ye be not judged.” Matthew 7:1

The old saying, “hate the sin, but love the sinner”, is a reminder that we must be clothed with grace in our dealing with others, and yet forthright in our quest for personal holiness.

Jesus is gracious and merciful, but He never ceases to be holy. He calls us to a life of holiness and obedience to His Father, and He gives us the spiritual resources we need to walk in righteousness.¹

¹ Stanley, C. F. (2005). *The Charles F. Stanley life principles Bible: New King James Version* (Jn 8:11). Nashville, TN: Nelson Bibles.