

March 26, 2023
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
The Gospel of John: Throwing Stones
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John 8:1-11 (NIV 1984)

1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Vs. 1-6

- The path carved out for the Christian is one of grace. By this path we are rescued and thus by this path we should walk. If we find ourselves full of judgment and condemnation, we should check the ground beneath our feet, for we have likely strayed to rocky terrain.
- If guilty of adultery, both man and woman were meant to be punished (Lev. 20:10)
- The pharisaical concern here does not have to do with God's law nor with this woman, but with legal entrapment.

Vs. 6-8

"Writing with the finger was symbolic of divine legislation."

Vs. 9-11

- The plot twist of the Gospel is that, like this woman, my sins were put on public display and punished; yet, it was not I that was displayed nor I that bore the punishment, but the perfect Christ in my place on a tree.

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Practical Takeaways + Small Group Discussion

For discussion, examine each takeaway and discuss how you relate to each of them. Do you struggle with any of them? Do any come easily to you?

1. Recognize your areas of fault, not for the sake of shame, but for humility and self-awareness.
2. Practice having grace for others. Forgiveness does not need to be immediate, but it does need to be legitimate.
3. If you are struggling in your faith, take stock of your life. How has God blessed you through following him?
4. This story makes it clear that righteousness can only be obtained by grace. Yet, it is a human tendency to return to a legalistic works-based righteousness system. Do you have this tendency? How can you embrace the grace God has freely given you through Christ.
5. Are there areas in your life that you think Jesus would tell you to go from / leave behind?