

OVERVIEW: The Religious Establishment of Jesus' day operated itself in a culture of labels, classifications, and categories of people with assigned values. Those noticeably imperfect were left out and left behind. The Temple, which was the epicenter of Jewish life and faith, reinforced this hierarchical way of life. Gentiles and half-breeds were only allowed in the Outer Courts, Jewish women could go beyond the partition to the Court of Women, Jewish men could go further still, priests operated in the sanctuary, and the one priest, the great high priest, would go once a year into the Holy of Holies. It was into this world that Jesus entered and introduced grace. It was this grace that turned the Religious Establishment up on its head. Jesus loved people with uncompromised truth and unconditional grace, and it took the world by storm.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. The Jewish Religious Establishment had created a culture of placing people in classifications, categories with labels that assigned different values to different people. The temple reinforced this with its layout and design. How does the Religious Establishment of the 21st century adopt categories with assigned values as it relates to people today?
2. Talk a bit about how shameful the Religious Establishment treated this woman. How can the establishment do the same thing today?
3. What types of people or sins does the modern religious establishment throw stones at?
4. What are the dangers of having categories for others and treating people according to their category?
5. C.S. Lewis said Christianity's greatest contribution was grace. Do you agree? Why or why not?
6. What is it about the Religious Establishment's way of doing things that appeals to us as Christians?
7. What groups do the Religious Establishment throw stones at today? How can we defend them?
8. Why would defending the woman the way Jesus did possibly make her more receptive to hearing truth?
9. What is our role in calling out sin to other believers? Unbelievers?
Reference: 1 Corinthians 5:12
10. How can we convince people that they are more important to us than their sin?
11. Why is uncompromising truth and unconditional grace such a hard balance to have in loving others?
12. Why is it important to know that God hates sin because of what it does to those he loves? How does that change our approach and perspective?

APPLICATION:

- Convince those far from God around you that they are more important to you than their sin.
- Don't get angry at sin as much as broken hearted about it because of what it does to people.

MEMORIZATION:

John 8:11 (NIV) "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

5 REASONS YOU SHOULD LEAVE YOUR CHURCH

1. [Group]

When it comes to sin...if your church talks, reacts, thinks, and behaves more like the Pharisees than Jesus...leave!

2. [Group]

When it comes to the bible...
if your church uses the
Word of God as a means to
withhold, hide, or minimize
the Love of God....leave.

3.

Truth
&
Grace

4.

Un-compromised Truth
&
Un-conditional Grace

5.

At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them.

John 8:2 NIV

6.



7.

The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group

John 8:3 NIV

8.

and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.

John 8:4 NIV

9.

In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?”

John 8:5 NIV

10.

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.

John 8:6 NIV

11.

When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them,

John 8:7 NIV

12.

When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”

John 8:7 NIV

13.

The only one in the crowd without sin was the only one in the crowd without a stone.

14.

Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

John 8:8 NIV

15.

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.

John 8:9 NIV

16.

Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

John 8:10 NIV

17.

"No one, sir," she said.

John 8:11 NIV

18.

"No one, sir," she said. "Then **neither do I condemn you,**"

John 8:11 NIV

19.

"No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

John 8:11 NIV

20.

Jesus was more interested in her than He was her sin.

21.

God is more interested in you than He is your sin.

22.

It is easy to throw stones at those whose story you haven't heard.

23.

You are more important to me than your sin.

24.

When it comes to truth & grace...if your church is more in love with telling truth than showing grace...leave.

25.

Who you are is more important to God than what you've done.

26. [Group]

27.