

Life Group #4: Amazing Forgiveness

John 7:53-8:11

Objectives: We want people to KNOW that Jesus did not come to condemn, but to set people free from sin. We want to be people that surrender control of our life and receive his forgiveness and freedom.

Launch Use your own words... (10 minutes)

We have been doing a series looking at the life of Jesus called Amazed. Tonight, we are going to look at a passage where the religious leaders trap Jesus in a tough situation. Pray.

Explore

Read John 7:53-8:6a (*though people question if this passage belongs in this chapter of John, most scholars believe that this is a true story about Jesus that belongs in Scripture*)

- **Describe the scene in your own words.**
- **Many people think this is trap. Why would they think that?** (*The religious leaders probably set it up because they only brought the woman to Jesus. The man was guilty as well. To be convicted of adultery they had to be caught in the act by 2 witnesses*)
- **Why is this a tough situation for Jesus?** (*The law says she must be stoned to death. Either Jesus seems cold and uncaring to the woman or he violates the Law of Moses*)

Read 8:6b-8

- **How does Jesus handle the dilemma?** (*He takes the focus off the woman and puts it on the sin of the religious leaders. Somehow, maybe through the writing in the sand, the men see their own guilt and walk away. Since there are no witnesses, there is no one to pronounce her guilt*)

Read 8:9-11

- **How do the Pharisees respond?**
- **What does Jesus do with the woman?** (*He does not condemn her and then gives her a challenge. The order in which he does this is important. Religion says sin no more, then you will not be condemned. Jesus says you are not condemned (grace), now you are free to leave your life of sin*)

- **What is amazing about Jesus in this passage?**
- **What questions come to your mind?**

Digging deeper...

- **The question that stands out to me is: how can Jesus tell her she is not**

condemned. She is guilty and Jesus is able to bring judgment, why doesn't he do it? Does this mean that Jesus is ok with adultery?

- **It is important to allow scripture to interpret itself. Let's take some time to look at the following 2 passages that will answer this question:**
 - **1 Peter 2:22-25** (He does not condemn her because he was condemned for her. He took the blows from the stones meant for her and us. The law required stoning, and Jesus was the one to receive those stones so the woman could be set free).
 - **John 3:16-18** (He did not condemn, because his purpose was to save people. The world is already condemned, so Jesus came to provide salvation!)
 - **Even though we have not been caught in adultery, we are all guilty of sin and therefore deserve to be condemned. What do we need to do to not be condemned?** (believe in His name = trusting in who He is and what He has done for us on the cross)
- **First Jesus tells her that she is not condemned, and then he challenges her to go and leave her life of sin. How can we leave a life of sin?**

There are 2 steps:

1. **First we need to receive Christ to be set free from sin. Read John 8:31-36**
2. **We need to live as if Christ is our Master and sin is not our Master.**

Read Romans 6:11-14

- a. **Know you are dead to sin but alive to Christ (11)**
- b. **Don't let sin stick around. Confess it and turn from it (12)**
- c. **Don't offer any part of your body to sin (eyes, hands, mouth, etc...) (13)**

Apply (you need at least 15 minutes!)

- **What are different possible ways we can apply this passage?**

There are at least three applications in this story for us:

1. We need to receive His payment for our sin
 2. We should not condemn ourselves if He does not condemn us
 3. We need to walk in the freedom Jesus gives us by not living in sin.
- **Consider your own heart and life right now, which of these applications do you most need?**
 - **What are specific ways we can help each other walk in freedom in sin this week? (Do in small groups)** (speaking the truth of Christ to one another, meeting to pray together, texting to check in on each other, etc...)
 - **We live in a society where many people feel condemned; who is one person that you think would be encouraged to hear this story? Pray for that we would have the opportunity to share this story with them this week.**

Announce

Continue to encourage life group attendees to come to family dinners, Real Life, etc.! Remind them the vision/purpose of Real Life and that it is meant to be a place of community and outreach. Keep bringing new people and looking for ways to meet new people! Announce Fall Getaway & bring computer for people to sign up!