

Week: for **October 21, 2020**

Scripture: **John 7:53-8:12, 18, 31-38**

Bottom Line: **Anything that is not God's Son will not make you free!**

A personal note from **Camille**: There is a lot in this passage – a lot being said, implied, taught, etc. and there is no way to cover it all in a 15-minute talk. For the sake of this particular teaching the focus is on how Jesus deals with sinners who are aware of their sin (the woman caught in adultery) and those who are unaware of their sin (the pharisees & scribes). Ultimately, their invitation is the same – it's to recognize their sin and need for rescue and to rest in Jesus' grace and forgiveness.

- Use the following questions to help move group discussion along, draw them out, and get them talking.
- As always, feel free to adapt or change or edit these as you see fit. If you want to get some more ideas look at "The Art of Group Talk" for guys or girls in the leader lounge, or other resources you find there.
- If you do get any feedback, questions, comments, or connections on the teaching tonight – please let one of our staff know so we can follow up in the live Q&A on Friday afternoon!
- **MAKE SURE** you find out how to be praying for them right now and take time to pray together before you exit.

Questions for discussion:

Leaders - I use words like righteousness, holy, grace, and forgiveness in this teaching. Due to time I can't unpack all those words and I'm keenly aware that there are students who do not understand that language. If needed, use some of your group time to talk through and unpack those words and what they mean.

1. Have you ever been in a position where you were caught doing something you shouldn't have been doing? BUT instead of punishment you were shown grace?
 - a. Leaders, if you have a story share first and then invite students to do the same.

In this Passage

1. A lot happens in the story of the woman caught in adultery. Review it, what's going on.
 - a. A woman is caught in adultery and brought before Jesus by the Pharisees and scribes.
 - b. Pharisees and scribes are more concerning with trapping Jesus than they are with the woman's sin.
 - c. Jesus is more concerned with the woman leaving/moving away from her sin than he is with the law.
 - d. Jesus deals with the sin of the woman by showing her forgiveness and grace, giving her his righteousness and calling her to live differently because of that forgiveness and grace.

- e. Jesus moves on to address the sin of the Pharisees and continues to give them the same opportunity to see their own sin and need for grace.
2. What is the sin of the Pharisees?
 - a. Using the law as a way of making oneself out to be righteous, when in fact it's supposed to shine the light of God's judgement into the dark places of the heart.
 3. Jesus doesn't say he is **A** light in the world, he says he is **THE** light of the world. Why is this important and how is it different than being **A** light in the world?
 4. What does Jesus set us free from?
 - a. The bondage of sin.
 5. How does Jesus set us free from being a slave to sin?

For Reflection

1. What does the scene with the Woman Caught in Adultery teach us about how Jesus treats sinners who are aware of their sin and how Jesus treats sinners who are unaware of their sin?
 - a. The woman is a sinner, and she knows it. Thus, Jesus immediately forgives the woman.
 - b. The scribes and Pharisees are sinners, but they don't know it. Thus, Jesus confronts them with the truth of their sin. For grace to be enjoyed and received, one must first see one's own sin and need for grace.
2. For those who "follow" Jesus why is his light shining into our darkness ultimately a good thing?
3. Have you experienced the freedom that only Jesus gives from the bondage of sin? If yes, tell a story about that. If no, why, talk more about that?
4. Where or When or How are you tempted to try and find freedom apart from Jesus?
5. What's the difference between "obedience" that follows after you've experienced Jesus' grace and forgiveness and before?

Looking at the passage as a whole

1. Read back through the passage - what do you see Jesus doing?
2. What stood out to you or surprised you in this passage?
3. What questions does this passage leave you with?
(Leaders: We'd love for you to share these with us to use for our Friday Q&A.)