

PUT DOWN YOUR STONE

John 7:53 - 8:11



SYNOPSIS

This story of the woman being caught in adultery was not found in the earliest manuscripts nor taught among the early church, but can be taken illustratively as an echo of the truth it points towards. It reminds us *how* we are to judge one another: with self-reflection, humility, compassion, mercy.



OUTLINE

1 TEXTUAL CRITICISM

Earliest manuscripts and early church history did not consider this passage as canon scripture, but what are we supposed to do with this passage? We do not ascribe it the same authority as other scriptures, but we can take this story illustratively as an echo of the truth that it points us towards.

2 RIGHT APPLICATION OF THE STORY

Often times, we can take this passage and apply an incorrect application, that we are never to judge one another because only God can judge. We see in scripture that we are actually supposed to judge one another (1 Corinthians 5:12), so that is not what Jesus is saying. Rather, He is commenting on the way (how) we judge one another. Jesus gets to the heart of their judgment - that it is hypocritical and applies a double standard. When we look at the story, we too must realize that we are also prone to elevate the weight of the sin of the "other" and minimize the weight of our own sin.

3 PUT DOWN YOUR STONES

There are many times in which we need to be reminded to put down our own stones. Here are a few examples:

Anger

When we have been wronged/hurt/offended, we often look at others and demand that they change, but we must also realize that Jesus wants to address our anger and bitterness.

Sexuality

We can come into the conversation around sexuality improperly because we tend to come at it with stones of condemnation and pride. We can be hypocritical when it comes to different types of sexual immorality. What does it look like to put down our stones?

Pride

It's easy for us to creep into pride and self-righteousness.

Self-Hatred and Unforgiveness

The last stone we need to drop is the one towards ourselves. Self-hatred, the forgiveness we are unwilling to give to ourselves. Because of Jesus, we are forgiven - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1), and we too can drop the stone that we hold against ourselves.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

What is one area (silly or serious) that I am very particular (and judgmental) about?

2

As I consider my own temperament, am I quick or slow to speak judgment?

3

What does it look like to allow Jesus to disciple me in the way I judge others?

4

What is an example of the double standard that I apply to others versus to myself?

5

What are some stones that Jesus is telling me to put down?



BIG IDEA

In our journey of following Jesus, may we become more like Him - learning how to judge one another with truth, mercy, and compassion. May we gain wisdom in learning how to approach different areas of contention - with the Word of God as loving truth rather than as a weapon towards others.

