



LIGHT OF THE WORLD

#3: KINDNESS THAT LEADS TO REPENTANCE

December 16, 2018
Pastor Keith Jenkins

BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

"Religion has the reputation for throwing stones at the brokenness it discovers."

—Pastor
Keith Jenkins

"At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' 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. 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.' Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. 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. Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she said. 'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared. 'Go now and leave your life of sin.'" (John 8:2-11)

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." (Matthew 7:3-5)

MESSAGE SUMMARY

"The Light of the World" series concludes as Pastor Keith examines a passage from John 8. Jesus is caught in a tricky situation. The religious leaders try to trap him between the Old Testament Law and the laws of the Roman Empire. They find a woman caught in adultery and use her to test Jesus. They don't see the women, they only see the opportunity for a trap. Jesus doesn't fall for their trap, but instead, uses the trap set as an opportunity for them to examine themselves. Jesus brings light to the world in this story by demonstrating that we all fall short of God's standard but by the grace of God repentance, redemption, and restoration are possible.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Have you ever had someone show you grace when you were in the wrong?
What happened?
2. Have you ever tried to help someone when you were really the one who needed help? What happened?
3. Have you ever been caught in an awkward situation? What happened?
4. What is one thing that you're looking forward to this week?
What's one that you are dreading?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. Looking at John 8:2-11, what pieces of the story alert you to the fact that this situation is really a trap for Jesus?

**DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS,
CONT.**

2. What did the women's accusers see when they looked at her? What did Jesus see?
3. In what order did the woman's accusers walk away?
What do you think caused them to walk away in this order?
4. What is Jesus' reaction to the woman after her accusers walk away?
What does his reaction tell you about how God views "sinners"?
5. Did Jesus display justice or mercy in this story? Why do you think so?
6. How does the John 8 text show us that Jesus is the light of the world?
How does Jesus bring light to this situation?
7. In Jesus' teaching about the plank and sawdust in Matthew 7:3-5,
what is Jesus really talking about?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. What kinds of "traps" or tricky situations can Christians be put in today that are similar to the situation Jesus was placed in (i.e. where it seems we have to choose between the law of God and the law of the government or the law of love)? What does Jesus' reaction tell us about how we should respond?
2. How have you seen Christians "throw stones" today? How have you seen Christians respond graciously to struggle and weakness? What causes the difference?
3. Can you think of a person (either someone you know or know of) who is both firmly committed to God's law and also full of grace? How does this play out in their life?
4. Who are some people or groups of people that are often overlooked or not seen as people? What can people do to see them differently?
5. Matthew 7:3-5 reminds us that we need to keep our own failings in mind even while we are trying correct failing in others. How have you seen this done well?
How have you seen it done poorly?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. Is there are "trap" or complex situation that you feel stuck in currently?
How can this story impact your response?
2. Is there a person (or group of people) that you need help showing grace to?
How can your own experiences and weaknesses help you have more compassion for this person (or people)?
3. Have you ever had stones thrown at you? What happened?
How can that experience help keep you from throwing stones at others?
4. Have you an experience where someone graciously corrected you? What happened?
How can this experience influence how you might illuminate and guide others?
5. Is there a person or group of people that you tend to overlook?
What can you do to see these people through God's eyes?
6. Can you remember a time where you tried to correct someone, but it was you who needed correcting or maybe a time you were corrected and the other person needed correction? What can you do to become more self aware of your own weaknesses so that you can help others overcome theirs? How can your group pray for you in this journey?

**DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS,
CONT.**

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What is the name of one person you will need extra grace to deal with in the next few weeks? How can your group pray for you as you interact with that person?
2. Is there anyway that you might be "throwing stones" at others?
How can your group pray for you as you seek to overcome this tendency?
3. Do you take time to look at the planks in your own eye? What can you do and/or "how can your group pray for you as you seek to become more self aware?"