

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 16TH, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

### FORGIVEN (JOHN 8:1-11)

#### THE TRAP

It seems the religious leaders brought the adulterous woman to be judged. Their question was more about what Jesus might say about the law than what the woman had done.

- **These men had already judged the woman, and Jesus was next. Judgment was definitely about to enter the room.**

#### THE TWIST

We don't know what Jesus wrote on the ground. We do know what He said: "The one without sin should be the first to throw a stone at her."

- **One by one, they left in shame until only the woman and Jesus were in the room. She stayed.**

#### THE TRUTH

As Jesus stood up and spoke to her, she experienced freedom from her accusers. He didn't ask if she was guilty; He asked if anyone else was there.

- **As the only one with true authority to condemn, Jesus has the true authority to forgive sin. Our response should result in a change in our lives.**

### LIGHT (JOHN 8:12-20)

#### LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Jesus calls Himself the light of the world. They don't realize it, but He is connecting Himself to the light at creation, the light in the wilderness, and the very light of life.

- **Jesus has offered Himself as bread for the hungry, water for the thirsty, and light for those that are in darkness. These leaders still chose darkness.**

#### LIGHT DEFLECTED

Jesus had just shown forgiveness and then shared an opportunity to follow Him.

- **Their response was to challenge His testimony and judge His character. Their judgment was superficial and shallow. Jesus would remind them that all of His words, His judgment, were in agreement with the Father.**

### AUTHORITY (JOHN 8:21-29)

#### GOING AWAY

Jesus tells them that He will be returning to the Father, but they would never see Him there because they didn't know the Father.

- **They had spent their lives looking for the Messiah, and they were missing Him. As they were rejecting Jesus, they would die in the sin of unbelief.**

#### WHO ARE YOU?

They asked, and Jesus responded. He was from Heaven and had been telling them for a couple of years, but they wouldn't listen.

- **Jesus said that there were more words that He could say but that they hadn't listened to Scripture or what the Father was saying about Him now. But Jesus wasn't finished.**

#### LIFTED UP

Because they still didn't believe, Jesus shared that He would be lifted up and they would have another chance to know Him.

- **We don't know how many, but even some of these hardened Pharisees DID come to KNOW Christ after His crucifixion. They received new life!**

### FORGIVENESS

- The world will attempt to condemn us and offer only brokenness.
- **Jesus knows our sins and offers forgiveness and redemption.**
- **Where are we in the process? Unforgiven? Condemning? Ashamed? Waiting? Or forgiven and sharing with others where to find forgiveness?**

### LIGHT

- Jesus is the light of the world, penetrating the darkness of our lives.
- **Some will choose to deflect His light, accusing others to make themselves appear "better."**
- **As the Light, Jesus is the only one who has the power to free us from the accusations and darkness that overwhelms us.**

### CONFLICT OR PEACE

- Jesus continues to reveal who He is and His desire to lead us into eternity.
- **Will we trust Him or challenge Him?**
- **If we claim to live in Christ's forgiveness, light, and life, we should share that life with those around us. What will our lives reflect?**