

STUDY NOTES

FLOURISH 2019

A Series At New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message "Flourishing Through Justice" on 11/17/19 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 7:53-8:6

JUDGING WITH RIGHT JUDGMENT

We are called to judge each other with right judgment. In this story, we get to read about how Jesus handled injustice. Powerful religious leaders were using a woman, who was socially powerless, to make a point to Jesus. According to the Old Testament Law, this woman's sin would allow for punishment. However, being "caught in the act of adultery" means that a man should have been brought forward as well. These religious leaders were unequally applying both the Law and the subsequent punishment.

- *What is your experience with the law/punishment being applied unequally (positively or negatively) to you?*

THE HEART OF JUSTICE

Read James 2:10-13 and Matthew 23:23-24. Jesus came to earth and showed us the heart of the Law. Jesus actually shows how the powerful religious leaders were completely missing the point. **Read John 8:7-9.** There was no justice because only woman's was brought forward with an extreme penalty. There was no mercy from the self-righteous men who were full of judgment and ready to destroy a woman for their own evil ends. And finally, there was no faithfulness to the law because there wasn't a trial with witnesses. These men wanted to trap Jesus and they were using this woman as a political pawn.

When people in power unequally apply the law or ignore the facts for the sake of holding on to power, or to unfairly target someone else, this is the apex of injustice!

- *Why do you think justice is such an important issue to Jesus?*
- *How should Jesus' heart toward justice influence us today as Jesus' followers?*

NO CONDEMNATION IN CHRIST

Read John 8:10-11. In the presence of the Lord there is no condemnation. These evil men had no power to condemn in the presence of Jesus. So it is with us! The enemy cannot condemn you in the presence of Jesus! Jesus was not advocating overlooking sin! Even in this state of embarrassment and harassment Jesus points out her sin without condemning her.

The liberating work of Jesus did not mean the excusing of sin.

- *How does Jesus pointing out this woman's sin actually show her Jesus' mercy?*
- *How is showing mercy, without bringing awareness to sin, actually not showing mercy at all?*

Jesus ultimately took the punishment for this woman's sin. Jesus said that he took the punishment for all the law breaking. He took it on for us today. We all have broken God's law. In essence Jesus looks at us and says, "You cheated on me and yet I died for you!"

Our heart for justice should flow from the mercy that we have received in Christ.

- *How can you remind yourself of the mercy that Jesus has actually shown you?*
- *How should that mercy that you've received in Jesus lead you to seek justice for others?*
- *Pray with each other to seek true justice with a heart of mercy.*