

Like Jesus: See like Jesus

Sermon series can be found at asburybham.org/sermons

Scripture Reading

John 8:1-11 (NRSV)

Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.'

Summary

The scripture reading is a fairly well known text yet we often miss the main point. In most Scriptures when you turn to John 8:1-12 in your Bible, you will see the title "Woman Caught in Adultery". Instead of something like "Pharisees try to set-up Jesus" or "Jesus leaves them speechless!"

The Pharisees and Sadducees arrest a woman who is caught in the act of adultery in order to hopefully arrest Jesus. They pull her from the home, stand her in front of all who have come to the temple that day. They tell everyone to look at her and to secretly imagine how and why she might be sneaking off to have an affair. Then they accuse her without letting her respond ... just to trap Jesus.

They pepper Jesus with questions on whether or not they should stone her to death as the law commands. "Come on, Teacher, tell us what you would do!", they ask. Jesus stands up and says "...Whoever hasn't sinned should throw the first stone." John 8:7

After Jesus says this the assembled people begin to leave, "beginning with the elders."

Looking at reality is one thing that we could implement in our lives to help us Bridge the Gap and begin to see the world more like Jesus sees the world. We live in such a contentious time,

we seem to be looking for ways to win debates and be right rather than looking at the reality of what is really going on around us. For us to “See Like Jesus” we need to slow down and really look.

Second, in order to see like Jesus we need to look at our own life first so that we can offer true love and support to those around us. This means we need to lay down the stones that we hurl at other people and be willing to figure out where we get it wrong.

We have the choice of seeing through our own world view or seeing like Jesus and bringing his message of second chances and restoration to our community and to the world. What will you choose? I hope you choose to See Like Jesus.

Discussion Questions

1. What can we do to break out of our own bubble and see like Jesus?
2. How do our own faults and shortcomings keep us from seeing Jesus?
3. How might seeing like Jesus change the direction our life might go?

Prayer by St. Catherine of Siena (1347-1380)

*Eternal God, eternal Trinity,
You have made the Blood of Christ so precious
through His sharing in Your Divine nature.
You are a mystery as deep as the sea;
the more I search, the more I find,
and the more I find the more I search for You.
But I can never be satisfied;
what I receive will ever leave me desiring more.
When You fill my soul I have an ever-greater hunger,
and I grow more famished for Your light.
I desire above all to see You,
the true light, as you really are. Amen.*

Use this time to discuss prayer requests among your TableTalk group.

Practice

- In your conversations and interactions with others, practice reminding yourself that God sees the other person just as he sees you, as a beloved son or daughter.
- Slow down and intently and lovingly listen to the person you are talking with. Set your thoughts and opinions aside as they share with you. This may take practice but it's a great way to show the person that you see and care about them.