

Underdog: Under God Adulteress Woman

Icebreaker: Share about a time that you were unfairly accused of something.

Stones and grace: a story where brokenness meets self-righteousness...

Then each went to his own home. But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn He appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around Him, and He sat down to teach them. (John 7:53-8:2)

- ***The underdog: guilt and shame*** – “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.” (John 8:3-6a)

We all stumble in many ways. (James 3:2a)

Have you ever seen someone publically shamed? How did it make you and others feel as you watched it?

- ***The self-righteous: hypocrisy and condemnation*** – “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, ‘If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.’ Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground.” (John 8:6b-8)

What do you think Jesus was writing that caused them to leave?

You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. (Rom. 2:1)

The “Go now” choice: a new life in God’s grace or the old ways in my guilt? – “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 8:9-11)

Why do you think someone would choose to live in the old ways with guilt instead of living under God’s grace?

- ***The Christian struggling with pride: drop your “rocks”*** – “Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you – who are you to judge your neighbor?” (James 4:11-12)
- ***The Christian struggling with shame: embrace the grace*** – “It is for freedom that Christ

has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” (Gal. 5:1)

What will you do differently this week because of what you have learned?

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this **grace** in which we now stand. (Rom. 5:1-2a)*