



Community Group Discussion Guide

September 15, 2013

Week 2 - Compassion

John 7:53-8:11

Read John 7:1-8:11 before answering the following questions.

Introduction

Crux is a word most of us have used at some point. You're talking with another person about a certain issue that's important to both of you. You want this person to know what it is that you see as the critical and central point of the issue you're discussing.

And to make this clear, you preface what you're about to say with these words... "Here's the crux of the matter as I see it."

In this sermon series we're looking at nine of these 'crux of the matter' statements that are made by Jesus about some of life's most critical issues. Issues that have the potential to be life changing for every one of us.

Questions for Study

Questions 1 and 2 are similar to last week's first two questions.

1. Take a few minutes to reflect back on your life. Think of one or two times when you most needed to experience compassion from the people closest to you. Did you receive the compassion you hoped to receive? If yes, how did you feel once you received it? If no, how did you feel?
2. The same question from the other direction. Think of one or two times when someone in your life needed to receive compassion from you. What did it take for and from you to show them this grace? What would you say was your biggest challenge?
3. What would you say is the potential tension between compassion and justice when it comes to dealing with wrong behavior that deserves punishment?

Digging into the biblical text.

4. From reading John chapter seven, what do you see the momentum building toward in the relationship between the religious leaders of Israel and Jesus Christ? How does this play into the encounter between Jesus and these men in this week's scripture?
5. Why did the teachers of the law and the Pharisees think they had trapped Jesus by bringing this woman to him and asking the question they asked?
6. What Old Testament scripture are they referring to when they said, "In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women?" (vs. 5)
7. What did Jesus first do when they asked this question? Why do you think he did this?
8. How did Jesus answer their question? Why do you think he answered it the way he did?
9. What was their response to his answer? Why do you think they responded this way?
10. What is significant about what Jesus said to the woman after everyone left? Why are the two statements he made the answer we need for responding to the sinful behavior of other people?