



Living Out God's Vision!

CtK exists to connect all people to the life-giving message of Jesus, as we experience God, find freedom, discover purpose, and make a difference in our world.

Day 17, Tuesday, August 22nd — Life-Giving

The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more." John 8:3-11

So often it seems when we turn on the TV or radio, or browse social media, we see and hear condemnation and shame hurled at people constantly. In sitcoms and movies, reality TV, and daily media and politics, people are put down, voted off, put out, and relentlessly bashed through posts and rants. It's degrading and yet the repetitive persistence serves to "normalize" and somehow justify the behavior. We sometimes hear it in our own circles, workplaces, and families. Sometimes it even flows from our own mouths or through our fingertips into our tweets and posts.

In this passage, we see a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery and dragged out to the place where Jesus was teaching. Can you imagine the shame and horror she must have felt—caught, scantily clothed, if at all, crying, dirty, being yelled at, called names, judged, and condemned as she is dragged and dropped before Jesus and the crowd he was teaching. She must have been in such pain and fear, knowing that as punishment, she would be immediately stoned to death. No mercy. No good-byes to loved ones. She was moments away from a certain, immediate, and painful death.

Look at the awesome contrast between Jesus and the Pharisees and aggressors of our day. The very one, the only one, who was and is in fact without sin chose NOT to throw a stone. Instead, He gives life. He calls the question of the Pharisee's own sinfulness, and one by one the accusers leave, until none remain. To the woman at His feet, He speaks truth in love as He says, "Go and sin no more..." Can you imagine her joy, being released from death and set free to live again! New life! The one who could rightfully condemn does not. Jesus came to save the world, not condemn it! (John 3:17)

Are you condemning yourself for something you are ashamed of? Or condemning someone else? In the beginning, before the fall, Scripture says Adam and Eve were naked and not ashamed. God created us not to live in condemnation or shame, but to have life, through Jesus, to live freely in the abundance of His joy, peace, and love. Isn't that incredible news?! Let's live it!

Gracious Heavenly Father, we love you. We praise and thank you for loving us so much that you sent Jesus to save us, and to give us new life! Help us lay our shame and condemnation at the foot of the cross and not to condemn or shame our brothers and sisters. Help us to speak words of life to ourselves and others. Help us to seek your will as you draw us to you and the life you have for us. Thank you for your Word that helps us see your character, understand your truth, and enter into relationship with you. Give us eyes to see people as you see them and compassion to speak life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Patti Manolakis



Christ the King
CHURCH