

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of April 17, 2016

This Week's Focus: Jesus is the only perfectly righteous judge who on the cross upholds justice toward sin and transforms sinners by grace through faith.

This Week's Text: John 7:53-8:11

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” **Ephesians 2:1-10**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's sermon?
- Textual criticism is the discipline of evaluating both external and internal evidence to determine which reading is most likely the original text of Scripture. Discuss how the following facts derived from textual criticism strengthen our confidence in the authority of Scripture:
 - Over 5,800 meticulous manuscripts (in part and whole) of the New Testament have been found.
 - Footnotes indicate passages that are not found in the earliest manuscripts (like John 7:53-8:11).
 - This story in John 7:53-8:11 has the “earmarks” of a true account.

- What does this passage teach us about the nature of God, about Jesus Christ, and about us? How does it compare with what the rest of Scripture teaches?
- What was the motive behind the scribes' and Pharisees' question? How did they intend to trap Jesus with their question? Who was missing from their indictment? Reference Leviticus 20:10 and Deuteronomy 22:22. Why do you think they did not also bring the man before Jesus?
- How did Jesus answer their question? Did he simply look past her sin? Was he saying that only perfect people can judge sin? Reference 1 Corinthians 5:12-13, Matthew 7:1-5.
- Discuss how Jesus' answer exposed the religious leaders' 1) hypocrisy, 2) misuse of the law, 3) callousness toward the woman, and 4) sin against the sinless Son of God.
- How did Jesus address the woman? What did he tell her to do? Did Jesus expect her to live perfectly?
- Why is the order of Jesus' words in verse 11 important to our understanding of a transformed life?
 - Is there any sin that Jesus did not die for and that God cannot forgive?
 - What does this passage teach us about the difference between religion (legalism) and the gospel?
- How does the passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?