

JESUS Talks

Ideas worth spreading

JESUS TALKS Part 4 Pastor Hilary Harris

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your small group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so knock yourself out with the discussion questions but spend more time laughing than answering the questions.

[Matthew 23:4]

They crush people with unbearable religious commands, and never lift a finger to ease the burden.

[John 8:1-11]

But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" 6 They were using this

question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, **“Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”** 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. 9 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. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, **“Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”** 11 “No one, sir,” she said. **“Then neither do I condemn you,”** Jesus declared. **“Go and sin no more”.**

Idea Worth Sharing - When you bring your sin into the presence of Jesus, you stand in a no shame zone.

[Romans 8:1]

So now **there is no condemnation** for those who belong to Christ Jesus. 2 And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. 3 The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. **So God did what the law could not do.** He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin’s control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins.

Matthew Henry

"The law which accuses us, and calls for judgment against us, is by the gospel of Christ made to withdraw; its demands are answered, and its clamors silenced, by the blood of Jesus".

You don't have to carry your sin or the weight of someone else's sin either.

[Luke 6:42]

How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to **remove** the speck from your brother's eye.

[Galatians 6:1]

*Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should **gently and humbly** help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. 2 Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. 3 If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important.*

[Romans 5:20 & 6:1-2]

...Wherever sin increased, there was more than enough of God's grace to triumph all the more! So what do we do then? Do we persist in sin so that God's kindness and grace will increase? What a terrible thought! We have died to sin once and for all, as a dead man passes away from his life. So how could we live under sin's rule a moment longer?

[Romans 8:33-34, Passion version]

Who then would dare to accuse those whom God has chosen in love to be His? God Himself is the judge who has issued His final verdict over them - "Not guilty!" Who then is left to condemn us? Certainly not Jesus, the Anointed One! For He gave His life for us, and even more than that, He conquered death and is now risen, exalted, and enthroned by God at His right hand. So how could He possibly condemn us since He is continually praying for our triumph?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. When have you witnessed someone easing another person's burden? What kind of help did he or she provide?**
- 2. What are some sensitive situations that you've had to manage in order to protect relationships?**
- 3. In the John 8 passage, who do you identify with?**
- 4. How have we seen Jesus "fulfilling the law," instead of abolishing it? In other words, how has Jesus shown the reason for a standard versus getting rid of it?**

- 5. What are some religious tendencies that some of us need to let go?" In other words, do we do anything in modern-day that even remotely resembles the habits of the Pharisees?**
- 6. What is Jesus' invitation to us through the story of the adulterous woman?**
- 7. How can we, as the people of God, create environments that lighten people's burdens?**