

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – February 12 - 17
Doing Life Together – Stump Stories pt 4

MONDAY:

KEY VERSE: John 8:1-2

OBSERVATION: John chapter eight opens with Jesus teaching a crowd of people who were coming and going in the Temple (8:1-2). It was early in the morning when Jesus began to teach them. Not everyone of course was ready to hear Him teach. A group of Pharisees called for His death, and was ready to trap Jesus. Some were saying, "Never did a man speak the way this man speaks" (7:46). Others were responding, "You have not been led astray, have you?" (v. 47). One of their own, Nicodemus entered into the discussion suggesting that no one should prejudge another without first hearing from him and knowing what he is doing (vv. 50-51). However, the Pharisees as a group was ready to entrap Jesus.

TUESDAY:

KEY VERSE: John 8:3-4

OBSERVATION: Where is the man? If I remember correctly, it takes two! Verse four says she was "caught in adultery, the very act." Should there not have been two sinners? Is this a lynching party? Where is the man? Who is trying to get even with the woman? Who set the deliberate trap for her? Her husband, or a former lover? Perhaps the husband set her up to divorce her or have her stoned.

WEDNESDAY:

KEY VERSE: John 8:5-6

OBSERVATION: I am sure they were ready to misquote Deuteronomy 22:22ff. They stressed stoning the woman in the recorded quotes of their conversation with Jesus, but the Law demanded that both parties be stoned. It was only under the condition of persistence after previous warning and after the actual witness of the act of adultery by two competent witnesses that a couple was to be stoned. The Pharisees and scribes continued to press their point. They were not after the poor woman as much as they were after Jesus. They were saying this "testing" Jesus (v. 6). They wanted grounds for "accusing" Jesus. He is the one they are really after.

THURSDAY:

KEY VERSE: John 8:6-9

OBSERVATION: As the Pharisees kept pushing their question, with the intent of trapping Him, "Jesus stooped down, and with His finger wrote on the ground" (v. 6b). I don't know what He wrote. No one does. I have heard many wild ideas in my life, but none are of any value. We simply don't know what He wrote in the sand. It is really not important to us. What is crucial is what follows. Jesus, will you kill the woman or kill the Law of Moses? Will you compromise your religious principles or kill the person?

FRIDAY:

KEY VERSE: John 8:7-8

OBSERVATION: Jesus specifically enjoined them to throw the first stone. Go ahead, you are right, the Law says stone her. She is guilty. Now, you, which one of you, is sinless? Moreover, if they threw the stone they would have been guilty of breaking the Roman Law against capital punishment! Only the Roman government in Jesus' day could execute a criminal. That is why the Jewish religious leaders manipulated Pilate to execute Jesus! They didn't have the authority to execute Him.

SATURDAY:

KEY VERSE: John 8:9-11

OBSERVATION: Correcting wrong starts with forgiveness, not rebuke. There is a keen reminder here that whenever we confront wrong we must be truly humble, not proud. We must take a long hard critical look at our own lives. Galatians 6:1 reminds us, "Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to yourselves, lest you too be tempted." Never were those words truer than in our day. Don't let the temptation of religious pride ensnare you. If you are in a position where you deal with those who are trapped in sin ask God for wisdom, and do not try to bring healing by yourself. Have an accountability group. The privilege of condemning wrong is based on righteousness, not knowledge. Are you without sin? Any sin? Are you spiritual enough to restore the one caught in a trespass? If you're not, then don't. Let a more mature believer be the caregiver (Matthew 7:1-2).