LifeGroup Study

Crashing Sukkot : Stones & Dust

Sermon Summary

One of the themes of Sukkot is judgment about rain. In this week's passage the religious leaders stage a judgment of their own in the temple court, dragging a woman caught in adultery in front of Jesus and demanding Jesus judge her. Jesus stoops and writes in the dust, then hands them their own law. One by one they walk away, until only Jesus and the woman remain. Jesus gives her both no condemnation, and a call to leave her old life of sin behind. The God who pitched his tent with us gets down in the dust with the accused.

Key Verse

John 8:11 (NIV)
"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

SERMON NOTES

https://www.creeksidechurch.ca/sermon-notes/stones-dust/

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What was memorable or interesting from the sermon?
2. Read John 8:1-11. The story of the woman caught in adultery is missing from the earliest manuscripts of John. How do you feel about naming that footnote honestly in church, and does it shake your trust in the story?
3. The teachers of the law drag the woman before Jesus. But the law required both the man and the woman to be brought forward (Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22). Why does the missing man matter, and what does it tell us about how the law was being used?
4. What does it mean to follow a God who does not stay above our mess but gets down in it? Where in your life do you most need him to meet you in the dirt?
5. Read Jeremiah 17:13. This is one of the strongest arguments for what Jesus writes in the dirt. How do you handle the parts of the Bible we simply cannot know for sure?
6. What stone are you holding right now, (person or thing you like to condemn) and what would it take for you to set it down before you throw it?
7. Jesus gives the woman both grace without condemnation, and a call to leave her old life. Cheap grace drops the second half, and moralism drops the first. Jesus keeps both. Which half do you tend to drop, the mercy or the call to change? What does it look like in your life to hold both?
8. Jesus does not just let the woman off the hook; ultimately, he takes her place. What does it mean for your own discipleship that Jesus carried what you deserved, and how does that change the way you respond when someone else deserves judgment?
9. Read Matthew 5:45. Think of rain as mercy. How does that picture of indiscriminate mercy challenge the way you decide who deserves grace and who does not?

CLOSING PRAYER

Spend 2 minutes in silence while each person quietly brings their own sin to Jesus.
Then have the leader pray out loud, thanking Jesus that he gets down in the dust with us, and close with John 8:11, inviting everyone to receive mercy (no condemnation), and a call to leave the old life behind.