

# Notes & Quotes – December 6, 2009

## It's Time for a Change

### John 8:1-11

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1 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, "If any one of you is without sin, let him 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 now and leave your life of sin."

**sins of the flesh – lust, greed, gluttony, drunkenness, slothfulness...etc.**

**vs.**

**sins of the spirit – pride, arrogance, self-righteousness, cynicism, negativity, judgmentalism...etc.**

Jesus is focused on sins of the spirit, while we're often pre-occupied with sins of the flesh.

**"What is so insidious about the sins of the spirit is that the carriers don't have a clue. At least with sins of the flesh, you find out you have messed up. With the sins of the spirit, you may not even know. You just walk through life with a stone in your hand: judgmental thoughts, a superior attitude, impatient words, bitter resentments, little room for love. People stand around you – trembling in brokenness, guilt, fear, lostness – but you're so caught up in your own self-righteousness you don't even see them. Or worse yet, you see them and are not moved."**

**– John Ortberg**

condemn = katakrino (kat-ak-ree'-no)= to judge against, to place sentence upon

The issue isn't whether the sin needed to be dealt with, the issue was the way in which it would be handled.

**The way of the Pharisees** came from a place of condemnation

-- you were sleeping with a man who is not your husband, Leviticus 20:10, foul, prepare to die

vs.

**The way of Jesus** came from a place of grace

-- based upon this gift of mercy and love that you've just received, go now and live differently.

Both ways deal with the sin, one does it from a place of condemnation, the other from a place of grace.

-- one brings death, the other a new life.

Jesus goes beyond toleration to acceptance.

**“We do not have to – we cannot – surrender the valid practice of distinguishing and discerning how things are in order to avoid condemning others. We can, however, train ourselves to hold people responsible and discuss their failures with them – and even assign them penalties, if we are, for example, in some position over them – without attacking their worth as human beings or marking them as rejects.” – Dallas Willard**

*Neither do I condemn you* – there’s the acceptance

*Go now and leave your life of sin* – there’s the call to change, to a higher life, a holy life

Imagine being known as a person who will never pick up a stone...

Imagine being known as a community of people who put down their stones...

Imagine the lives that would be impacted and the great glory God would receive...