



Now What?
December 29, 2024
By Pastor Blaire Jenkins

Group Leader Notes

Throughout Advent, the four weeks leading to Christmas, we're looking at important people in the Christmas story to understand how they prepared their hearts for the arrival of Jesus. We started with the prophets who called the people of God to repentance to prepare their hearts. We've covered Mary, Joseph, the Magi, the birth of Jesus and now we want to ask the question, "Now What?" Here on the other side of Christmas, where do we go from here?

Question:

Here on the other side of Christmas, where do we go from here?

Bottom Line:

You are not condemned. Go. Live your life with God.

Main Scripture Reading: John 8:1-11

Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the child she carries was conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will call him Jesus, because he will save people from their sins.

Other Scripture References:

John 5:14

Romans 6:1-2

Galatians 5:22-23

Group Discussion

Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

1. Pastor Blaire opened her message by asking now what to a score of questions, including:
 - a. "You finally signed up for that gym membership...now what?
 - b. You brought the puppy home even though you can't keep a plant alive for more than a week...now what?
 - c. Ending or starting a new job. Day 1 hits...now what?
 - d. Starting at a new school, in a new city or country...now what?
 - e. Ending a relationship or marriage...now what?
 - f. At a standstill waiting for the diagnosis...now what?
 - g. You got the house! ...now what?
 - h. And many others.

What is your "Now What?" question that you are processing today?
(Feel free to use one of the above if you don't have one ready to share).

2. Pastor Blaire leads us to the text of the woman that the Pharisees brought to Jesus after she and a man had been accused of committing adultery. As we read the text, we see that the man is not included in the scene, and only the woman is there to “stand trial.” Jesus sees through the charade. What features and details strike you as interesting, disturbing, or confusing as you read the passage?
3. The Pharisees ask Jesus if she should be stoned, and he tells them that those without sin can cast the first stone. In verses 10-11, a key moment happens when he asks, “Woman, where are your accusers?” and she responds, “No one.” Then Jesus says, “I do not condemn you either. Go and sin no more.” Take a few moments and share what lessons can be learned here for ourselves and others.
4. The lessons you may have mentioned may have included the warning of self-righteousness and that the Lord is ready to forgive anyone seeking repentance. A key takeaway in this text and message is that those who are true and vulnerable in their soul before Jesus are not only not condemned but forgiven, instructed to sin no more, and sent in the peace of Jesus. What does this teaching say to you?
5. As you process this text on the other side of celebrating Christmas, how do you answer the question, “Now What?” as you enter the New Year?
 - a. “Now What?” as it pertains to your soul?
 - b. “Now What?” as it pertains to others?

Let's Pray