

NEW is for EVERYONE

Connect Group Discussion Guide Sunday Message - 4/19/20 | Tyler Myers | John 8:1-11

NEW is even for the guilty!

Key Scriptures:

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

- Romans 3:23

The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery."

- John 8:3-4

And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."

- John 8:7

Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

- John 8:10-11

...and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

- Romans 3:24-25

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- 2 Corinthians 5:17, 21

Message Notes:

The Bible's handling of the GUILTY:

- Sin – 760x
- Guilt – 150x
- Shame – 160x
- Punish – 130x

The Bible's handling of the GUILTY (another look):

- Grace – 130x
- Mercy – 160x
- Favor – 140x
- Bless – 500x

The Bible's handling of REDEMPTION:

- Death – 440x // Life – 560x
- Sheol – 60x; Hades 9x; Hell 14x // Heaven – 730x

Message Highlights:

- The hardest person to lead is yourself... leading yourself to forgive yourself and leading yourself to forgive others.
- COVID19 is most likely amplifying addiction, anger, laziness, lust, selfishness, religiosity, materialism...
- If you have ever been busted, or you are currently sitting in a season of guilt, you know that NEW needs to become real.
- The Bible has a lot to say about being busted, and a lot to say about being made NEW.
- God knows your guilty – he was there when you were BUSTED!
- It breaks his heart to see you live in the identity of a sinner – he knows you were created for more.
- The heartbeat of the resurrected one: Father, Son, Spirit is that you would be NEW – that the old would be put to death and that through Christ you would be a NEW CREATION!

Conversation Starters:

- Share a story of getting busted as a little kid. What were you up to? How did you get caught?
- Share a story of forgiveness that impacted you in a significant way.

Discuss the Message:

1. What do you think about the way Jesus handled the situation when the religious leaders tested him by accusing the woman who was caught in adultery?
2. Do you agree that the hardest person to lead is our own self? Why or why not?
3. What is the connection between being forgiven of our sins, and forgiving others who have sinned against us?
4. Is it possible to know that Jesus has forgiven you for something yet still feel guilty or ashamed? Explain your response.
5. How can we fully experience forgiveness in complete freedom from guilt *and* shame as “new creations” in Christ?

Pray:

- Pray for one another.
- Pray for those experiencing anxiety about the present and future due to COVID-19.
- Pray for the health of the most vulnerable in this season.
- Pray for those struggling with guilt and shame, that we may all experience forgiveness, freedom, and new identity in Christ.