



# the point of IMPACT

## Week 5 Devotionals...

### The Impact of Forgiveness

She was brought before him caught in sin and drenched in shame. She expected judgment, and she deserved it. What she got was “a stone not thrown.” She got grace; she received forgiveness. It’s good news!

#### Monday, May 4

**Read** Take a few minutes to read the whole story of the woman Jesus met in John 8:2-11.

**Review** It is called the story of the woman caught in the act of adultery. It would have more impact if we called it the story of the man caught in the act of forgiveness. She was caught to be “bait.” Her accusers had no interest in her redemption; they simply wanted to put Jesus in a lose/lose situation. She was guilty. She deserved and she expected condemnation. What no one expected was for Jesus to start writing in the dirt. Jesus was putting his finger on what seemed to be the ultimate lose/lose situation (the tension between mercy and justice). The issue was not whether sin should be judged, but where and by whom.

**Respond** What is one memory from your life (one “act of sin” you were caught in) that you wish you could delete forever? Why is it so hard for us to “delete” bad memories?

#### Tuesday, May 5

**Read** There is no condemnation now for those who live in union with Christ Jesus...What the Law could not do, because human nature was weak, God did. He condemned sin in human nature by sending his own Son, who came with a nature like our sinful nature, to do away with sin.” Romans 8:1, 3, TEV

**Review** **Jesus condemns condemnation.** Jesus reconciled mercy and grace at the cross. He could not condemn her because he was willing to be condemned for her. Jesus does not sweep sins under the carpet; Jesus puts sins under the blood. At the cross Jesus turned lose/lose into win/win. In the amazing wisdom of God, the only one qualified to stone

became the only one qualified to be stoned in our place. In Christ God has condemned the sin that would have condemned us.

**Respond** Forgiveness is now free, because forgiveness was so costly. Have you been caught up in the wonder of the man who was caught in the act of forgiveness? Write a prayer to God thanking Him for this act of forgiveness.

## Wednesday, May 6

**Read** John 8:7b

**Review** **Forgiven people are rock-droppers.** This story does not whisper that sin is not that bad, but it does shout that no one is that good (see Romans 3:10). Here are 3 reasons I should be a rock-dropper: 1. I do not know another person's back-story. 2. I cannot see what is going on in another person's heart. 3. My own sin disqualifies me. To condemn justly you must meet one qualification: perfection.

**Respond** Confess the sin of judging and ask God if you need to drop any rocks.

## Thursday, May 7

**Read** Romans 2:4

**Review** **Forgiven people are excuse-droppers.** Jesus did not allow the woman to play the victim card. He never loved sinners by pretending that sin did not matter. The past may explain how you got where you are, but it does not excuse you from becoming the person God calls you to be. Jesus told her, "Go now and leave your life of sin." The gospel isn't "Straighten up and you'll be forgiven;" the gospel is "You've been forgiven, so straighten up."

**Respond** Where is your life stuck in regards to holiness? What "excuses" is God calling you to drop?

## Friday, May 8

**Read** Romans 8:34

**Review** **Forgiven people are name-droppers.** Everyone has a closet full of regrets. One reason those files are hard to delete is because our memories are susceptible to assaults from the Accuser. You cannot shut Satan up, but Jesus can. Just like Jesus did for the woman, Jesus rises to your defense (Romans 8:34). Let Jesus have the floor. Drop the name of Jesus and the enemy will drop his rock.

**Respond** **Have you been caught in the act of forgiveness?** Memorize this verse today: "See to it that no one misses the grace of God" (Hebrews 12:15). There is a profound impact when you collide with God's forgiveness. And maybe the biggest impact is on all those memories you want to delete. Go back to day 1 and claim forgiveness for that memory.