

CHRISTIAN EXTREMISM

EXTREME MERCY

December 13, 2015

1. Open in prayer.

- a. First, pray that God the Holy Spirit transforms us into merciful people.
- b. Second, pray that God the Lord Jesus would continue to expand TC's influence in helping the church in America and the world become more ethnically diverse, reflecting God's Kingdom.
- c. Third, pray that we would be able to raise the \$427,000 as soon as possible so that we can build the new TC 521 parking entrance!

2. Read John 8:1-11.

- a. Pastor Derwin said, "It is by design that Jesus is in front of the Jewish Temple when He forgives the woman caught in the act of adultery because the Jewish Temple was where heaven and earth met and where worship, forgiveness, and mercy took place. Jesus is the New Temple."
- b. How did Jesus function as the New Temple? And what does this mean for you personally?

3. Read John 8:2b-5.

- a. One of the reasons the teachers of the religious law and Pharisees brought the woman caught in adultery in front of the crowd was to publically shame her.
- b. Pastor Derwin said, "Shame makes you feel bad, and guilt says you should feel bad, because of what you've done." How has this been true in your life?
- c. Pastor Derwin then said, "Without Jesus, shame and guilt are nailed to you. With Jesus, He nails your shame and guilt to Himself and sets you free. My behavior transformed only when I believed Jesus removed my shame and guilt." How does Jesus removing our shame and guilt transform our behavior?

4. Read John 8:6-9.

- a. Explain Pastor Derwin's statement, "Don't throw stones; throw mercy."
- b. Jesus wrote the Ten Commandments. He is God, along with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Therefore, Jesus potentially wrote in the dirt, "Thou shalt not commit adultery" to show that the woman was guilty. And He may have written, "Thou shalt not bear false witness" because the religious teachers and the Pharisees didn't bring the man caught in adultery. They were trying to catch Jesus in a trap so they could use something against Him. **Big idea:** instead of wanting to stone the woman, they should've been trying to offer the woman forgiveness, mercy, and repentance.
- c. How does this affect the way you engage with someone in need of mercy?

5. Read John 8:10-11. Explain Pastor Derwin's statement, "Receive and live in God's mercy." How does mercy transform our behavior?

6. Take time to pray about the person in your life who needs Jesus' mercy that you want to invite to Christmas Eve services.