



# Sunday Teaching Guide

## Prayer Week 5

### February 11, 2023

#### Bible Texts

- Matthew 6:7-13
- James 2:15-17
- John 8:2-11
- Psalm 130:3-4
- Micah 7:18-19
- John 1:5-9

#### Important Terms

- Sin: The Greek word for this word refers to missing the target or mark.
- Save: The Greek word means "save, rescue, heal, or restore."

#### Sermon Notes

- In the Gospel of John, there is a story about a group of Pharisees who bring to Jesus a woman accused of adultery. They attempt to trap Jesus by asking what should be done about her. Jesus understood that they were being judgmental and challenged them on this. He says that the one without sin can be the first to condemn her. After all of the accusers leave, she is left alone with Jesus and he tells her to go and leave her life of sin. When Jesus says this, the emphasis isn't on her sin anymore. The word "GO" was about a new destination and identity, not wandering and lost in her sin but restored and given a fresh start.
- Some of us fall on the side that we struggle with asking for forgiveness because of our pride. For others of us, we struggle with asking for forgiveness because of our guilt. The problem with these extremes is that they paint a picture of a God who can't forgive because he doesn't have to or because he doesn't want to. That's not the God we see in Jesus.
- The person filled with pride has painted a picture of God so distant and so impersonal that sin doesn't matter because God can't do anything for them. The person filled with guilt sees God so distant and so impersonal because God wants nothing to do with them because he only sees their sin. But thanks be to God, we can come to him for forgiveness, receive it, and be made new.

#### Reflection Questions

- Why do you think that the Pharisees bring the woman in front of Jesus, but not the man? What do you think this says about this culture?
- What do you think happens to the woman after Jesus tells her to "go"? What happens in her life?
- Why is it easier to punish and condemn than to forgive and restore?
- How would you explain that God's forgiveness restores us?
- Why do you think we struggle with punishment and condemnation?
- Do you struggle with asking for forgiveness from God? What do you think is the cause of this struggle?
- Is there something that you need to ask God or someone else for forgiveness?
- Is there someone that you need to ask forgiveness from?

#### Prayer for the Week

- God, help me to recognize the sin within me and to walk away from judging others. As I see the sin in my life, help me to then drop my pride, guilt, and shame and embrace the forgiveness of God. Amen.

#### Additional Readings

- Colossians 3:13
- Luke 6:37
- Matthew 18:21-22