

Questions for Life

From Sunday, May 23, 2010

A Stone's Throw from Death

John 8:1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

11 "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Revelation 3:15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! 16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

1. Please read John 8:1-11.

2. The scribes and Pharisees in this story are hypocrites (appearing to be what they really are not). Why might religious hypocrites be the worst kind of hypocrites? Explain.

3. What have you said (or could say) to someone who says they don't go to church because of the hypocrites in the church?

4. Have you ever been a hypocrite? Explain.

5. Can you tell about someone that you know to be a hypocrite (no names please), and how you felt or acted toward that person? Were you right or wrong in the way you felt or acted?

6. Jesus showed compassion toward the sinful woman. Can you tell about a time that you especially felt Jesus' compassion toward you as a sinner and how you felt toward Him?

7. How might Jesus' treatment of this sinful woman affect your view of "sinners" and how you treat them?