

Who will lead me out of the darkness of guilt?*I Am the Light of the World!* John 8:1-12

Jesus dispels the blindness of _____ religious _____.

*Symptoms of abusive religious shame:***1. Misdirected _____***such women (5) ...grounds for accusing (6)*☞ **Accusation is misdirected when it starts with _____ of other's sin.***...set her in the center... (3)*☞ **Accusation is misdirected when it leads to the _____ of our sin.***...he who is without sin... (7)***Apply: Our sin will be _____!**

- in _____; John 3:19-20

- in _____; Numbers 32:23

- in _____; John 12:46-48; 1 Corinthians 4:5

2. Targeted _____☞ **Judgment is wrong if the goal is _____.***...stone (5) ...testing...accusing... (6) ...condemn... (10)*☞ **Judgment is necessary for the goal of _____.***"Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more!"***Apply: Beware of _____ religion.****3. Conviction without _____**☞ **Jesus does not _____ her sin – He _____ of their sin.**☞ **Jesus does not _____ her in sin – He offers her _____ from sin.**☞ **Jesus does not _____ the _____ – He _____ it!****Challenge: DROP THE ROCKS...**

1) Face the _____.

2) Open _____.

3) Receive and give _____.

...COME TO THE LIGHT!**No Shame Claim:**

Psalm 103:8-14; John 3:16-2; John 6:37

Matthew 11:28-29; Romans 8:1, 33-39

Discussion Guide: Darkness...Guilt...Condemnation

Opener: Read John 8:1-12 again and maybe rewrite the story as a news item for the local *Jerusalem Herald* newspaper.

What's the headline? How does the reporter *slant* the events from the eyes of the liberal religious media? (Pharisees)

What would stand out if a reporter interviewed the bystanders?

1. Who are key players in this encounter & how would you characterize them?
 - (If this was re-enacted as a stage drama and you were introducing the characters before the play: How would you introduce them?)
 - Which character do you identify with most?
 - Have you ever felt like the woman? Can you share?
 - Have you ever acted like the Pharisees or Scribes? Share.
 - Has someone ever responded to your sin like Jesus? Share.
 - In what ways do modern Christians – or religious people and churches – respond to guilt/shame like each of these characters?

2. Agree or Disagree?

“Unconditional love is not the same as unconditional approval.”

- Is God's love “unconditional?”
- Is God's approval “unconditional?”
- Is God's forgiveness “unconditional?”

3. How can we, as Jesus' followers, respond to guilt & shame as Jesus did here?

- In dealing with our own sin?
- In dealing with the sins of others – in our family or church or network?
- In dealing with *social sins*?
- Can you, personally, be a *friend of sinners* without approving or abandoning people in their sin? Are you? Do you?

Prayer Target: Healthy relationships that handle guilt, judgement and freedom like Jesus – rather than like the Pharisees.

Who will lead me out of the darkness of guilt?

I Am the Light of the World! John 8:1-12

Jesus dispels the blindness of abusive religious condemnation.

Symptoms of abusive religious shame:

1. Misdirected Accusation

such women (5) ...grounds for accusing (6)

- ☞ **Accusation is misdirected when it starts with public exposure of other’s sin.**
...set her in the center... (3)

- ☞ **Accusation is misdirected when it leads to the personal denial of our sin.**
...he who is without sin... (7)

Apply: Our sin will be exposed!

- in confession; John 3:19-20
- in consequence; Numbers 32:23
- in judgment; John 12:46-48; 1 Corinthians 4:5

2. Targeted Condemnation

- ☞ **Judgment is wrong if the goal is condemnation.**
...stone (5) ...testing...accusing... (6) ...condemn... (10)
- ☞ **Judgment is necessary for the goal of salvation**
“Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more!”

Apply: Beware of marshmallow religion.

3. Conviction without Salvation

- ☞ **Jesus does not excuse her sin – He convicts all of their sin.**
- ☞ **Jesus does not condemn her in sin – He offers her freedom from sin.**
- ☞ **Jesus does not break the Law – He fulfills it!**

Challenge: DROP THE ROCKS...

- 1) Face the cross.
- 2) Open hands.
- 3) Receive and give forgiveness.

...COME TO THE LIGHT!

No Shame Claim:

Psalm 103:8-14; John 3:16-2; John 6:37
Matthew 11:28-29; Romans 8:1, 33-39