

Sermon-Based Questions
May 5, 2019
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Fighting the Right Battle

John 8:1-11

Introduction (choose 1):

1. Share a battle (big or small) that you have fought recently. Do you think it was the right battle to fight? Why or why not?
2. What do your battles tend to be about with any of the following people?
 - Spouse
 - Kids
 - Family Members
 - Friends

Understanding (choose 4-6):

3. *Read John 8:1-11.*
 - What is your reaction to this story?
 - How do you view the Pharisees in this story?
 - How do you view the woman caught in adultery?
 - What do you think of Jesus's response?
4. Pastor Ron stated, "When you are focused on the externals, on behavior...you are selective on who you apply the rules to."
 - What does Pastor Ron mean by this statement?
 - Why doesn't this type of treatment work?
 - Share an example in your life when you received this type of treatment.
 - Share an example in your life when you treated someone else this way.
5. *Reread John 8:6.*
 - Why do you think Jesus bent down and wrote on the ground?
 - Pastor Ron points out that Jesus took his time to respond. He was being patient.
 - Why do we have so much trouble being patient in the midst a battle?
 - Share a time when you lost your patience, and upon looking back you realize that having more patience would have improved the outcome.
6. Pastor Ron said, "The Church has a long history of fighting the wrong battles."
 - Give some examples of either in the Bible, throughout Church history, or within the Church today where the wrong battles are being fought.
7. In order to win the battle for someone's heart, we need to listen before we lecture.
 - Share a time when you lectured before you listened.
 - Name someone in your life that you are lecturing to instead of listening to.
 - What can you do differently next time you see them?
 - What can you do differently next time you have a battle with them?
 - What are some steps we can take to help us listen before we lecture?
8. Jesus is the perfect example of someone that allowed people to belong before they believed.

- Name a story in the Gospels when Jesus did this.
 - Share a time when you allowed someone to belong before they believed.
 - How did that person react?
 - Why is it so hard for us to do this?
9. Pastor Ron said, “God speaks to us where we are at, not where we should be.”
- Where do you see Jesus doing this in John 8:1-11?
 - Give some practical examples of what this would look like if you began to speak to people where they are at.

Application:

10. Think of the people in your world whose hearts need to be won? Share with the group if you are willing. What do you need to change to fight the right battle?
11. Take some time to pray that we would do a better job of fighting the right battles and bringing people one step closer to Jesus. Pray for those people in your life that need someone to listen, to love, or to show compassion.

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Lectio Divina

1. **Opening Prayer:** Ask God for insight into His Word, for open hearts and minds, for hunger to know Him better, and for an attitude of learning from one another.
2. **Reading:** Have someone from your group read the passage aloud. It is best to print out a copy for each group member so they can read along, make notes, or go back as needed.
3. **Meditation:** Spend *an entire minute in complete silence*, contemplating what was just read. Feel free to re-read the passage quietly to yourself or jot down thoughts/highlight what stuck out to you.
4. **Sharing:** At the leader's signal, invite group members to share their insights for about 5 minutes.
5. **Repeat:** After the 5 minutes are over, repeat the process 2 more times using the same passage. Listen/read like you haven't heard this passage before. If there are longer moments of silence, the leader can prompt discussion with the following questions:
 1. What did you hear and what seems important?
 2. What is the Holy Spirit impressing on you?
 3. What does it make you think of from your life?

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, "Let any one of you who is without sin 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."

-John 8:1-11

¹⁹ Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³ I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

-1 Corinthians 9:19-23

¹ "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

³ "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

⁶ "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

-Matthew 7:1-6