

Jan. 7/8
take home

LIVECHRIST

LORD OF LIFE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*These are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah,
the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in His name. ~ John 20:31*

THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY

Text: John 8:1-11

Key Verse: “. . . Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” John 8:7b

Biblical Background: Jesus’ statements and claims continue to provoke antagonism from the Jewish authorities. While Jesus is teaching in the temple they brought a woman caught in adultery, with the express purpose of trapping him in order to have some grounds for their accusations (8:6). If on the one hand Jesus states that she should be stoned to death, then they can accuse him in terms of the Roman law; if on the other hand Jesus says not to stone her, then they can accuse him in terms of the Law of Moses. They think that they have him in an inescapable corner. Whichever way he responds will be wrong. But they are mistaken. His simple response: “If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her” completely reverses the situation; it is now they, not him, who are put to the test. Jesus’ words to the woman demonstrate both grace and truth, love and justice. He recognizes and does not condone her sin, but with loving mercy he forgives her.

Sermon Reflections

Text Messages

for personal and small group reflection

Does our culture view adultery differently today than 50 years ago?

Why did the Pharisees want to “test” Jesus, and why was this such a difficult “test?”

What do you think Jesus may have been writing on the ground?

What is the significance of throwing the first stone?

Why do you think “elders” went away first?

Does this test give us permission to sin? Why or why not?

What is the significance of Jesus addressing her as “woman?”

Faith Spark

Jesus has compassion on the woman but doesn’t condone her behavior. Each day, whether at home, school or work, how can you follow his example and show those in your life that you love them in spite of how they might behave?

To read for January 14/15—John 8:12-59

Read the text. As you read, jot down any questions or comments you have.

What do you wonder about? What catches your eye? What effect do these words have on you personally?