



DAILY ENCOURAGEMENTS

Carstairs-Bancroft United Church

February 16, 2024



Photo: Our Daily Bread

EXTENDING DIGNITY

Has no one condemned you?

John 8:10

READ John 8:2-11

Maggie's young friend showed up in church shockingly dressed. No one should have been surprised though; she was a prostitute. Maggie's visitor shifted uneasily in her seat, alternately tugging at her much-too-short skirt and folding her arms self-consciously around herself.

"Oh, are you cold?" Maggie asked, deftly diverting attention away from how she was dressed. "Here! Take my shawl."

Maggie introduced dozens of people to Jesus simply by inviting them to come to church and helping them feel comfortable. The gospel had a way of shining through her winsome methods. She treated everyone with dignity.

When religious leaders dragged a woman before Jesus with the harsh (and accurate) charge of adultery, Christ kept the attention off her until He sent her accusers away. Once they were gone, He could have scolded her. Instead, He asked two simple questions: "Where are they?" and "Has no one condemned you?" (John 8:10). The answer to the latter question, of course, was no. So, Jesus gave her the gospel in one brief statement: "Then neither do I condemn you." And then the invitation: "Go now and leave your life of sin" (v. 11).

Never underestimate the power of genuine love for people—the kind of love that refuses to condemn, even as it extends dignity and forgiveness to everyone.

By Tim Gustafson

PRAY & REFLECT

Gracious God, please forgive me for having a judgmental spirit, and help me to show others Your love and grace. Amen

How will you react when you see someone who's living a hard lifestyle? Who can you invite to church this week and how might you get them to come?

SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

In the passage about Jesus and the woman caught in adultery in John 8:2-11, the religious leaders were trying to entrap Him on the horns of a dilemma (a situation where you have two choices, but both are wrong). If He excuses the woman's sin, He'd be seen as denying Moses' law and would be exposed as a false teacher. But if He said to stone her to death, He'd be defying Roman law - for only Rome could enact capital punishment. Instead, He chooses a third option - making the religious leaders the subject of examination instead of the woman and offering her compassion. – By **Bill Crowder**

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